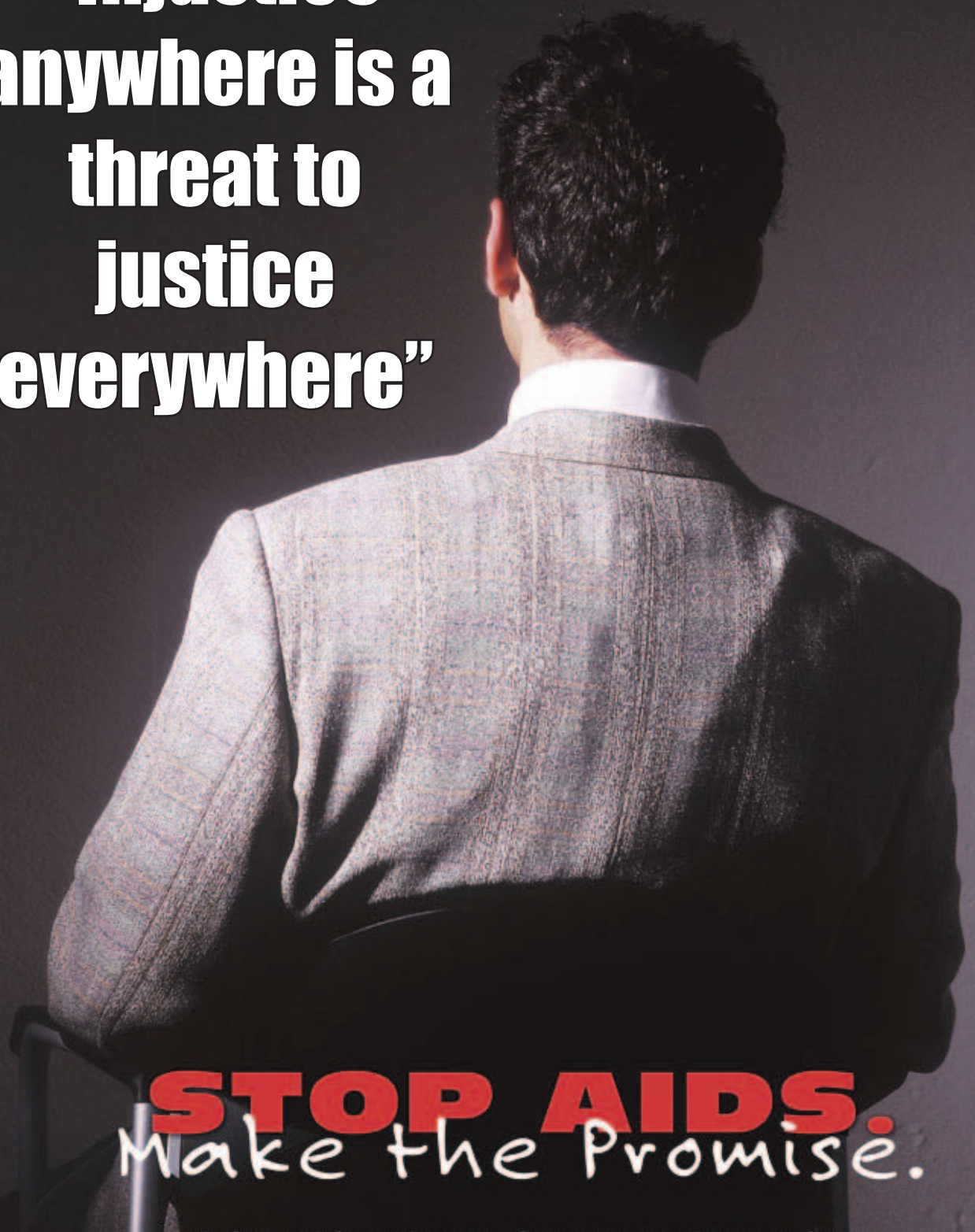


The theme for this year's annual World AIDS Day is, "Universal Access & Human Rights".

Since the first case of AIDS was discovered three decades ago a lot of lives have been lost resulting in increased number of orphans. December 1, 2010 marks yet another commemoration of World AIDS Day, which offers an opportunity to reflect and to renew our resolve in winning the fight against the epidemic. This year's theme has two important and parallel elements which we must remember as we commemorate World AIDS day. The first element is that of universal access. The other element of this year's theme which is equally important is that of human rights. HIV infected people like every other human being have rights which must be protected and respected. We need to show compassion and recognition of human rights. It is not uncommon to hear reports of work place stigma against people living with HIV. This does not only make HIV infected people feel isolated. It also denies them a constitutionally entrenched right of dignity. Some people have been fired from work or denied

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"



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employment because of their HIV status. This is wrong because being HIV positive should not take away the rights of anyone. As a nation we should guard jealously the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. Thirty years into the HIV/AIDS pandemic, we have to focus on achieving zero marginalisation and discrimination of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

There is need to go beyond policy to having a piece of legislation that will protect the rights of those who are HIV positive. On this year's World AIDS Day, we call upon all political parties, trade unions, NGO's, the government and the people at large to renew our commitments and solidarity in the fight against the epidemic. We can make a difference if

we individually make a decision to fight against all forms of discrimination and the spread of the virus. Let us reflect on the loss of fellow citizens. We have lost a mother, father, brother, sister, son or daughter and ask ourselves this question: what role can I play to ensure no more life is lost? We would also like to thank all those who have

committed their time and resources to the fight for the rights of those who have been affected and infected by HIV. To them we say, let the struggle continue. HIV positive members of society have rights too. Like Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". It might be someone else today but tomorrow it could be you! □



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Pentagon leaders say gays won't hurt the military



Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen, speaks to reporters on gays in the military, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, at the Pentagon.

By ANNE FLAHERTY
ANNE GEARAN,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gay troops can serve openly in the armed forces without harming the military's ability to fight, the Pentagon's top leaders declared Tuesday, calling for the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" ban to be scrapped and pointing to a new survey to show most troops won't

AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)
mind.

President Barack Obama, citing the troop poll, urged the Senate to repeal the ban before adjourning in the next few weeks, but there is still no indication GOP objections can be overcome with just a few weeks left in the postelection lame-duck session. Still, the survey did put new pressure on Republican opponents, led by Sen. John McCain, who

say efforts to repeal the law are politically motivated and dangerous at a time of two wars.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the ban on openly gay military service "requires people to lie," and he called for quick Senate action.

"We spend a lot of time in the military talking about integrity and honor and values. Telling the truth is a pretty important value in that scale," Gates said as he released the Pentagon study showing that most people currently in uniform don't care about the ban.

Senate Democrats plan to force a vote in December. Senate Republicans were generally silent following release of the Pentagon recommendations for repealing the ban.

Although historic, Tuesday's recommendation that the military for the first time allow openly gay people came with a caveat that also frustrates many supporters of repeal. Gates wants an

indefinite grace period while the Pentagon prepares for the policy change and phases it in. "It would be unwise to push ahead with full implementation of repeal before more can be done to prepare the force, in particular those ground combat specialties and units, for what could be a disruptive and disorienting change," Gates said.

Critics led by McCain say the Pentagon's report doesn't address risks to morale and fighting mettle. Gates countered: "I obviously have a lot of admiration and respect for Senator McCain, but in this respect I think that he's mistaken."

Obama has called it a top priority to repeal the 1993 law that bans openly gay service. But gay rights groups have complained that he and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have done too little to see it through, focusing their postelection efforts instead on tax cuts and a nuclear

arms treaty with Russia before Republicans gain congressional strength when lawmakers return in January.

In the report, the study's co-chairs, Pentagon General Counsel Jeh Johnson and Army Gen. Carter Ham, wrote, "We are both convinced that our military can do this, even during this time of war."

Gates said he didn't think the Pentagon would have to rewrite its regulations on housing, benefits or fraternization to accommodate gays if they were allowed to serve openly.

A defense policy bill that would overturn the law — pending certification by the Pentagon and the president that doing so wouldn't hurt the military's ability to fight — has languished in the Senate since it passed the House this spring.

In the meantime, a federal judge ordered the Pentagon to stop enforcing the law because it was unconstitutional. □



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15 hurt as storms rip through Miss., La.

By HOLBROOK MOHR,
Associated Press

YAZOO CITY, Miss. — Storms ripped through central Mississippi, bringing further misery to an area already decimated by a line of tornadoes that killed 12 people in April. Tornado watches were posted across southern Louisiana, much of Mississippi and Alabama and into Tennessee as the storms moved east Tuesday.

Authorities in Mississippi reported 15 people hurt and homes and businesses badly damaged, but no deaths.

On Battle Street in Yazoo City, a possible twister late Monday ripped the tarp off 63-year-old Clarence Taylor's roof, which had been damaged by the April tornado.

"It looks like a war zone now," he said Tuesday morning, pulling a slow drag off a cigarette, then looking around at the power lines dangling from broken poles and pieces

of tin scattered about from nearby buildings.

Taylor said the tornado sounded like a bomb and he bolted down the street to check on his 93-year-old mother a few doors away. The wind blew him down, but he made it to her house and found her unhurt.

"I'm blessed, man. I'm blessed," Taylor said.

Buildings were heavily damaged in downtown Yazoo City, where workers rushed to repair traffic signals near the courthouse square Tuesday morning.

A large tree on the courthouse lawn was uprooted, falling between the two story white building and a war memorial for local veterans. An American flag and the pole from which it hung was twisted among the broken branches.

A few shingles blew off the courthouse and some

windows were blown out, but the building was otherwise unscathed.

"We're just in tornado alley," said John Richardson, a court bailiff and reserve officer with the Yazoo County Sheriff's Department. More than 200 homes in Yazoo City were damaged or destroyed in the April tornado. "We come out good on this one compared to the last one."

Business owners on historic Main Street tried to salvage merchandise from rain water that pushed through broken windows and damaged roofs.

Water was still dripping from the ceiling at Grace Hardware, housed in a building built in 1904, as friends of owner Susan Cartwright Guion helped load merchandise onto a truck. Despite being called a hardware store, the owners make custom furniture and sell antiques and art. Guion said the building was featured in the film "Oh Brother Where



A mobile home is flipped over in the middle of the road at the The Pines mobile home park after severe weather came through Monday night in Starkville Miss. Tuesday Nov. 30, 2010.

(AP Photo/ Kerry Smith)

Thou Art."

"It's been here a long, long time, but now it has no roof and we have no insurance," she said.

In central Louisiana, a tornado destroyed a brick house and

damaged three other homes near the town of Atlanta as a front with thunderstorms moved across the region from Monday into Tuesday. No one was hurt, the Winn Parish sheriff's office said. □

Police: Islamic center fire caused by liquid



This courtroom sketch shows terror suspect Mohamed Osman Mohamud during an appearance in federal court Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, in Portland, Ore. Authorities say Mohamud and an FBI operative parked a van full of dummy explosives on Southwest Yamhill Street across from Pioneer Courthouse Square just after sundown Friday while thousands gathered in the square for the annual tree lighting. Mohamud is accused of attempting to detonate the explosives.

(AP Photo/Abigail Marble)

By JEFF BARNARD,
Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — The fire at an Islamic center where the man accused of plotting a bombing in Portland sometimes worshipped appears to have been started by someone who broke an office window and tossed a container of flammable liquid inside, police said Tuesday. Corvallis police Capt. Jonathan Sassaman told The

Associated Press the window to the center's office was not broken enough for someone to enter, and the fire inside burned hot enough to melt many items.

Sassaman said evidence — including the entire window — has been shipped to the FBI crime lab in Quantico, Va., in hopes of finding fingerprints, DNA and identifying the type of flammable liquid that was used.

"Certainly it spread in the room," Sassaman said of the liquid. "Lots of items were melted." The Sunday fire burned about 80 percent of an office at the Salman Alfarisi Islamic Center, where Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 19, sometimes worshipped while he was a student at Oregon State University.

"It's not a drive-by," Sassaman said of the fire, which came two days after Mohamud's arrest. "They broke a window, then tossed an accelerant inside."

Mohamud has pleaded not guilty to a charge of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction in an alleged plot to set off a car bomb last Friday in downtown Portland while thousands of people were gathered for the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Pioneer Courthouse Square. Sassaman said whoever set the fire would have had to drive around to the back of the building, then walk past the mosque entrance to the office window. No footprints were found below the window. "You'd have to know what you're doing," he said. □

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Elizabeth Smart kidnapper suffers seizure in court



Brian David Mitchell, the self-styled prophet who calls himself 'Immanuel', on trial for kidnapping Elizabeth Smart in 2002, is shown in this undated photograph admitted into evidence in his federal kidnapping trial in Salt Lake City, Utah. The image was released to Reuters November 29, 2010.

By JENNIFER DOBNER, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY – The former street preacher charged with kidnapping and assaulting Elizabeth Smart has suffered an apparent seizure in the courtroom. Paramedics rushed inside the courtroom to attend to Brian David Mitchell, who was

moaning and lying on the floor.

The incident happened Tuesday just as the jury was about to get called into the courtroom for another day of testimony.

Mitchell's former stepdaughter, Rebecca Woodridge, says the defendant has been housed in a jail medical unit recently because of seizure issues.

His attorneys don't dispute that Smart was abducted from her home at knifepoint and held captive, but contend that Mitchell is mentally ill and can't be held responsible for the crimes.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

Defense attorneys called a string of witnesses Monday to support an insanity defense for the man charged in the 2002 kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart.

Utah State Hospital therapist Gregory Porter testified that he was initially skeptical about whether defendant Brian David Mitchell was mentally ill.

But Mitchell then spoke freely about his religious revelations about polygamy and details of the kidnapping — "things he probably shouldn't have told us," said Porter, who was

Mitchell's social worker from 2005 to 2008.

Porter and forensic psychiatrist Dr. Paul Whitehead jointly diagnosed Mitchell with a delusional disorder that showed itself in his religious ideas but added that he also had "islands of health" — periods of time when he functioned and acted normally. Porter said.

Mitchell also engaged in periods of silence, refusing to speak to staff members and only writing notes when he needed something. He mostly ignored other residents and spent time reading alone or watching TV, according to testimony.

By day, Mitchell exercised, running in circles for two or three hours inside a small courtyard. At night, he sat meditating on a towel on the floor, Porter said.

Although he sometimes preached to new residents, Mitchell wasn't preoccupied with religion, the therapist said.

"We assumed that he would spend hours a day studying, writing and preaching, and that was not the case," Porter testified.

He agreed with prosecutors that Mitchell acted differently at the hospital than in court, where he routinely disrupts proceedings with hymn

singing.

"He is unwilling to participate," Porter said. "That would grant tacit approval of the legal system and he was not about to do that."

Whitehead testified that he decided early on that the former street preacher likely needed anti-psychotic medication. Before making a diagnosis, Whitehead reviewed some 4,500 pages of state court records and interviewed Mitchell's father, Shirl Mitchell, about the family history. The inquiry revealed a "fairly robust" history or a "genetic vulnerability" to psychotic disorders, Whitehead testified. Mitchell's grandfather, for example, had been committed to the state hospital for mental health treatment decades

earlier, he said.

Mitchell is on trial in U.S. District Court on kidnapping and unlawful transportation charges. If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Defense attorneys don't dispute that Smart was abducted and held captive for nine months, but they contend the 57-year-old defendant is mentally ill and can't be held responsible for the actions.

Mitchell was deemed competent for trial in the federal court system after twice being found incompetent in a parallel state case.

A state judge first sent Mitchell to the state hospital in 2003 for a 30-day competency evaluation and again in 2005 for treatment to restore his competency. □

AP Enterprise: Guards shown watching inmate attack

By REBECCA BOONE,

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho – The surveillance video from the overhead cameras shows Hanni Elabed being beaten by a fellow inmate in an Idaho prison, managing to bang on a prison guard station window, pleading for help. Behind the glass, correctional officers look on, but no one intervenes when Elabed is knocked unconscious.

No one steps into the cellblock when the attacker sits down to rest, and no one stops him when he resumes the beating. Videos of the attack obtained by The Associated Press show officers watching the beating for several minutes. The footage is a key piece of evidence for critics who claim the privately run Idaho Correctional Center uses inmate-on-inmate violence to force prisoners to snitch on their cellmates or risk being moved to extremely violent units. Lawsuits from inmates contend the company that runs the prison, the Corrections Corporation of America, denies prisoners medical treatment as a way of covering up the assaults. They have dubbed the Idaho lockup "gladiator school" because it is so violent.

The AP initially sought a copy of the videos from state court, but Idaho 4th District Judge Patrick Owen denied that request. The AP decided to publish the videos after a person familiar with the case verified their authenticity.

The videos show at least three guards watching as Elabed was stomped on a dozen times. At no time during the recorded sequence did anyone try to pull away James Haver, a short, slight man. About two minutes after Haver stopped the beating of his own accord, the metal cellblock door was unlocked. Haver was handcuffed and Elabed was examined for signs of life. He bled inside his skull and would spend three days in a coma. CCA, the nation's largest private prison company, said it was "highly disappointed and deeply concerned" over AP's decision to release the videos.

"Public release of the video poses an unnecessary security risk to our staff, the inmates entrusted to our care, and ultimately to the public," the prison company said in a statement. □

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Obama, GOP promise to work on differences on taxes

By JIM KUHNHENN,

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reaching no quick fixes, President Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress vowed on Tuesday to seek a compromise on their sharply different views about tax cuts before year's end.

"The American people did not vote for gridlock," Obama said following the session. "They did not vote for unyielding partisanship. They're

demanding cooperation and they're demanding progress and they'll hold all of us, and I mean all of us, accountable." The meeting was the first since the Nov. 2 elections weakened the Democrats' hold on government, shifting control of the House to the GOP and narrowing the Democratic majority in the Senate. Obama conceded he had not reached out enough to Republicans in the past and promised to consult with them more frequently, GOP lawmakers said.

At one point the president and the lawmakers took the unusual step of leaving their aides behind and retreating the president's private dining room for a more intimate 35 minutes of discussion.

There was no consensus on whether to keep Bush-era tax cuts in place for the middle class and wealthy alike. But the eight bipartisan congressional leaders and the president agreed to break through their differences by appointing a working group to negotiate a tax cut agreement. The president appointed Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Budget Director Jacob Lew to the group while party leaders will appoint their own representatives. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said those negotiations might start later in the day.

Obama said he also emphasized the importance of ratifying a new nuclear treaty with Russia, a treaty that he said has "broad bipartisan support" from national security advisers and secretaries of Defense and State.

"It's absolutely essential for our national security," Obama said. "We need to get it done." Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said after the meeting that Senate Republicans first wanted to address the expiring tax cuts and pending spending legislation before tackling other issues. Republican Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, one of the Republicans who attended Tuesday's meeting, has rejected the administration's assertion that the treaty must be dealt with during the lame-duck session, saying the Senate has more pressing issues to deal with.

But Sen. John McCain on Tuesday appeared to leave open the possibility of working with the White House, saying he still hoped progress could be made this year.

"I believe that we could move forward with the START treaty and satisfy Senator Kyl's concerns and mine about missile defense and others," McCain said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, who earlier this month raised concerns about the treaty's impact on the former Soviet satellite nations, told reporters, "I'd like to get it done, but in my conscience I want to feel it's the right thing to do."

Gibbs, alluding to those comments, said START could still be ratified this year.

The meeting lasted just shy of two hours, nearly an hour longer than originally planned. It was during the last

35 minutes that the president and the lawmakers broke away from their staffs for a more private session.

House Republican leader John Boehner, the Speaker -in-waiting, described the session as a "nice meeting," but said the hard work of achieving bipartisan agreement still lies ahead.

"The president and Democrat leaders acknowledged that the American people want us to create jobs and to cut spending," he said.

Obama said that while differences remain over how to address the expiring tax cuts, there was "broad agreement" that both parties can work together to resolve the issue. "We agreed that there must be some sensible common ground," Obama said. The meeting comes as a new Associated Press-CNBC Poll shows most people oppose extending expiring tax cuts for the richest Americans. Just 34 percent want to renew tax cuts for everyone; 50 percent prefer extending the reductions only for those earning under \$250,000 a year; and 14 percent want to end them for all.

Obama said he also planned to hold more sessions with lawmakers, a point that Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia took note of and applauded. "I was encouraged by the president's remarks regarding his perhaps



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to the press in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building near the White House in Washington November 30, 2010. Obama had earlier met with bipartisan congressional leadership in the Roosevelt Room of the White House.

not having reached out enough to us in -- in the last session," Cantor said, "and that this meeting was the beginning of a series in which he hoped that we could work together in a different fashion for the benefit of the American people, given the problems that we face."

Obama promised to invite the leaders to Camp David, an offer that he said especially pleased Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who pointed out that in his 28 years in Congress he had never been to the presidential retreat in Maryland.

While Obama called the meeting extremely civil, he also spoke of the political realities that often emerge from such meetings — how

the leaders of both parties typically fall back on talking points, go before the cameras, try to win the news cycle and paint the other side as unyielding and uncooperative. "I think there was recognition today that that's a game we can't afford. Not in these times," Obama said. "In a private meeting that I had without staff — without betraying any confidences — I was pleased to see several of my friends in the room say, 'Let's try not to duplicate that.' " Obama's work, however, is not limited to building new relationships with Republicans. Democratic allies led by labor decried his federal pay freeze proposal, which would require congressional approval. □

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Police: Outlook not good for 3 missing Mich. Boys

By COREY WILLIAMS,

Associated Press Writer

MORENCI, Mich. — It's looking less likely that three young brothers who have been missing since a Thanksgiving Day visit to their father's home will be found alive, a police chief admitted Tuesday, even as searchers scoured the countryside for a fourth day hoping for a happy ending. Morenci Police Chief Larry Weeks, looking tired and strained, chose his words carefully as he addressed the efforts to find 9-year-old Andrew, 7-year-old Alexander and 5-year-old Tanner Skelton. The boys' father, 39-year-old John Skelton, tried to hang himself Friday, and police have determined that he lied about giving the boys to a female acquaintance to pass along to their mother. "Statements he made to investigators indicate it's not going to be a positive outcome," Weeks told reporters, volunteers and



This combo made with undated photos provided by The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children shows, from left, Alexander Skelton, 7, Andrew Skelton, 9, and Tanner Skelton, 5. An Amber Alert has been issued for three boys, who haven't been seen since Thursday when they were in their father's yard. John Skelton told police that he gave the boys to a female friend before attempting suicide, but authorities say they don't believe him.

(AP Photo/National Center for Missing & Exploited Children)

some members of the boys' extended family. John Skelton was under psychiatric care at a hospital, and has been speaking with investigators, Weeks said. "He's been forthcoming with some information, the credibility of which we can't verify," Weeks added.

Weeks said no decision has been made about whether to bring charges in the boys' disappearance, and he declined to say what the boys' father may have told investigators. Police released John Skelton's photo on Tuesday and are looking for anyone who may have seen the boys or the

Skelton's blue, Dodge Caravan between Thursday and Friday afternoon. Police have seized the van, but were trying to determine where John Skelton may have taken them before he attempted suicide. Weeks said their mother and John Skelton's estranged wife, 45-year-old Tanya Skelton,

was told about the search's possible outcome.

Her reaction: "Imagine your worst nightmare come true," Weeks said. "How would you respond?"

For a fourth day Tuesday, crews searched the woods and fields around Morenci, about 75 miles southwest of Detroit and just north of the Ohio state line.

The purpose of the search may have changed, but it will continue, vowed Bill Foster of Morenci, who was wearing the names of the boys on the back of his yellow vest.

"It's not what you wanted to hear," he said. "The whole community had been hoping for a Christmas miracle.

"We're very saddened by the news, but the search has to continue. We won't quit the search until we bring the boys home."

Foster said locals began searching fields and woods on Saturday. They joined police efforts when those started. □

Wis. gunman dies from self-inflicted gunshot wound

By TODD RICHMOND,

Associated Press

MARINETTE, Wis. — A 15-year-old student who held about two dozen students and a teacher hostage for several hours in a classroom at a Wisconsin high school died Tuesday at a hospital from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said. Sophomore Samuel Hengel shot himself after police stormed a classroom at Marinette High School on Monday night, said police chief Jeff Skorik. Hengel, of Porterfield, had been holding most of the students and their social studies teacher hostage for

several hours. No one else was wounded. The teenager allowed one of his hostages free a short time after he took over the classroom after the girl's mother tried to call her daughter and couldn't reach her, said Principal Corry Lambie. Five more of his hostages were let out after about six and a half hours, and finally the other students and their teacher Valerie Burd emerged unharmed. The terrified high schoolers trapped in the classroom worked desperately to keep their captor calm by chatting and laughing with him about hunting and fishing. Student

hostage Zach Campbell said the gunman seemed depressed, but he didn't think he meant his classmates any harm.

"I didn't know really what to think. I was just hoping to get out alive," Campbell said Tuesday on CBS' "Early Show." "He didn't want to shoot any of us." Campbell told The Associated Press that six of the gunman's close friends were in that class. Authorities also said they did not know what might have motivated the boy who made no demands or requests during the standoff. "As far as what caused this, it seems to be a mystery," Skorik said. "We



Law enforcement officials stand guard in the doorway of Marinette High School Tuesday morning Nov. 30, 2010 in Marinette, Wis. Authorities say a teen who held 24 hostages in a Wisconsin classroom has potentially life-threatening injuries from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

(AP Photo/Mike Roemer)

have not been able to identify anything that precipitated this incident." Skorik said the suspect fired three shots

immediately before police entered the room, but he had also fired at least two or three shots before that. □



Dr Robert Ray Visits Aruba as Guest of Okeanos Spa



ORANJESTAD -- Empowering women to spread their wings and fulfill their promise, Dr Robert Ray conducted a lifestyle seminar on the island, as part of the first annual Women's Expo Show this past weekend. As a guest of the Renaissance Marina Hotel, Dr Ray enjoyed the penthouse

accommodations rating his room and hotel amenities as best in the Caribbean. Over a casual conversation with the resort's marketing and sales team, Rebecca Verschoor and Zugheila Lindeborg, he expressed his gratitude for his fantastic hotel stay, and only had warm words of praise for the gym facility and the



Okeanos spa services. While on the island Dr Ray conducted a TV interview with NTN 24, Flash Fashion hosted by Santiago Giraldo, from Columbia. He sat down with Flash Fashion at Okeanos Spa, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and shared openly and honestly of his experience, advocating inner beauty, over

outer beauty. In his exuberant and informative comments Dr Ray recommended a healthy life-style, following the Paleo Diet developed by Dr Cordain, which is the natural human diet of our Stone Age ancestors, made up of numerous small meals of mostly fruits, vegetables, and lean meats. Dr Ray advocated exercise, fresh water, and natural food supplements as means of combating aging and disease, before any attempt at plastic surgery. Banning salt, sugar, white flour, alcohol, and any hormones, the good doctor went on to recommend spirituality, and steady family relationships mixed in with fun. On a personal level he shared that after 10 years of turning his life into a Reality TV Show, he now produces a number of mega-shows per year, turning the 24-hour TV cameras around his home off. The large shows allow him to travel, and reach out to an even bigger global audience,

besides affording him some privacy at home. He recently visited Israel, with his camera crew, operating at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, reconstructing cranial and facial injuries, operating on some bad cancers, and in general enjoying the beauty of the people, the beaches, the Dead Sea and the cosmopolitan feel of the Holy Land. As a devout Mormon he also enjoyed his encounter with biblical references, and following in the footsteps of Jesus to the Lake of Galilee, Bethlehem and Nazareth. He nicknamed himself Dr Robin Hood, hinting at the fact that proceeds from his international lingerie and cosmetic lines go towards free operations, to victims of violence and war around the world. Throughout his interview, Dr Ray cited Self Love as the most powerful tool in the female arsenal, calling our era The Age of Women, replete with Endless Possibilities. Pictured here Dr Ray at Okeanos Spa



La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club Celebrates Special Anniversaries



EAGLE BEACH – A festive gathering at the conference room of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club paid tribute to long-time associates completing their 5th, 10th, 15th and 20th anniversary at the resort.

The highlight of the afternoon was a special moment in which the associates celebrating their 20th anniversary were recognized. These associates were the first ones to be hired when La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club first opened its doors, 20 years ago. They joined the workforce then, and have been giving guests and colleagues their very best, for the past two decades.

Twenty years ago, the resort invited its first guests, helping create a genuine Aruban brand of hospitality, and seeing success. The people who were part of that journey were recognized at the party, as they were toasted with beautiful gifts and thank you certificates, well-deserved for their faithful years of service. Management & staff took the opportunity to give special thanks to those pioneer associates who contributed to the making of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club a home-away-from-home for thousands of overseas guests. □



Playa Linda "gives thanks"

Dedicated team of long-time employees share a holiday, celebratory meal

PALMBEACH—The American tradition of "Thanksgiving" has been transformed in Aruba by the Playa Linda Beach Resort, which uses the opportunity to provide thanks and recognition to its dedicated team of long-time employees, celebrating 5, 10, 15 and even 20 years working with the popular timeshare resort. A multitude of blessings was represented this year with about a dozen employees, from different departments, sitting down to enjoy a celebratory meal together. This year, Playa Linda's "Thanksgiving" was held at the new J.J. Yee's restaurant, at the South Beach Mall, and helped to honor four 20-year employees -- Monica Liverpool, Amalia Gomez-Dorothal, Catharina Angela and Cecilia Charles, all from the Housekeeping Department. "Each year we honor loyal employees that have not only contributed to the resort, but who have done so for often a decade or longer," comments Playa Linda General Manager

Jan van Nes. "It speaks for the relationship we share at the resort between employees and management and between the staff and our guests. The environment of a mutually-beneficial relationship and the opportunities for career growth and satisfaction are factors which ensure that our valued employees choose to remain with the Playa Linda." Throughout the year, employees who complete milestone anniversaries with the resort are provided the traditional envelop on the day of their original hire. However, also sharing an anniversary meal together has become an important, annual tradition. This year's honorees who enjoyed special treatment included twenty-year employees, Housekeeping's Monica Liverpool, Amalia Gomez-Dorothal, Catharina Angela and Cecilia Charles. Marking fifteen years with the resort is fellow Housekeeping colleague, Maria Teresa Santana-Japa as well as



Maureen Wong-Maduro from Accounting and Gaspar Sabularse from Grounds. With the resort for ten years is Rocheline Roos from the Front Office, and Yvette Tromp from Activities. Five-year employees include Eduard Maduro, from Maintenance, Annelies de Cuba, from Reservations, and

Tito Boekhoudt, from Loss & Prevention. As proven by its recent Thanksgiving, the Playa Linda Beach Resort certainly has reason to celebrate. At the conclusion of a very enjoyable lunch, each employee marking an anniversary received a

crystal plaque, as well as the admiration of their fellow employees. In 2011, Playa Linda will look forward to honoring a group of 25 employees who will make a milestone anniversary, among them several individuals who will celebrate 25 years with the resort. □



At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

Renewal of Wedding Vows brings Jean and Walter Back to Aruba



PALM BEACH – Jean & Walter Kazmierczak met in Brooklyn, New York, in 1955. They dated for 5 years before Walter finally proposed to Jean in 1959. They were married a year later, and went to Aruba on their honeymoon, staying at a just-opened hotel on Palm Beach (Editor's note: We suspect it was the Radisson, then called the Aruba Caribbean Hotel). They started their family a year into the marriage when Lori was born. They waited 5 years to have J.R., then 3 years later Stacey and Joel followed.



Walter worked for American Airlines for over 35 years which brought the family to Broken Arrow OK, where they have been living for 31 fantastic years. On the eve of their 50th anniversary, their daughters Lori and Stacy decided to bring Jean & Walter back to Aruba, with their families. Love was in the air when the

local reverent asked them to re-take their vows, in the presence of Tony, Lori, Natalie, Alex, Doug, Stacey, Jake & Ryan Bridal Specialist Lisa Dammerman reports they enjoyed a beautiful beach ceremony followed by cocktails at Castaways Bar and Dinner in Sunset Grille Restaurant. □





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Christmas High Tea

Ronchi models go all-out at Holiday fashion preview



ORANJESTAD - Ronchi de Cuba and his fabulous models will show a preview of his latest collection for the Holidays at De Suikertuin during its Christmas High Tea preview. This is what we call Catching two birds with one stone! As



guests nibble on Christmas ham with pineapple, sample pumpkin soup and brochettes, turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes, ayaca pie, potato salad, scones, carrot cake and choco cake, the models will parade through the festively decorated De Suikertuin, showing what is in high style. The so-called 'statement jewelry', the hottest thing in fantasy jewelry, is provided by Beauty and the Beast. The Holiday Fashion High Tea is held from 3 – 6 pm on December 5; the price is fls. 45,-- per person, a welcome mimosa included.

Ronchi's previous showing at De Suikertuin with his Trash fashion was a great hit; predictions are that this Holiday collection will surely stun the guests even more. "Grey is the new black," says Ronchi, but he also tips purple as the new in-color. "Bright yellow and taupe are fantastic too, as are black-and-white prints." As we were browsing in the elegant Trash store, several lovely, beaded kaftans caught our eye. "Yes, that is the latest fashion; also very pretty on plus-size ladies." The seamstresses in Ronchi's atelier in Maracaibo are now putting in the final stitches on his Holiday design wear. "Again a combination of different materials, often in a uniform color, making the item chic and elegant in a truly modern style," explains Ronchi, who is already selling up a storm in Trash, where the prices for the clothes made for a very nice surprise. Ronchi notices our delight: "We're not expensive at all, contrary to what many people believe." Reservations for the Holiday Fashion High Tea at De Suikertuin should be made as soon as possible. □



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HUMAN HINTS

Uncertain Times

These are uncertain times. Frustration and anger seem to be building in the mass consciousness. It seems that every aspect of life hangs by a thread, and yet mysteriously never falls. What's a person to do, with disaster looming in all directions?

What are the most prudent yet balanced decisions we can make with the information and means available to us in the moment? Our decisions must be prudent to protect us, yet balanced so that we can live the fullest life possible?

Now more than ever, our own Spirit is our only Guide. If you follow someone else, you will be lead down someone else's path. We must each do what feels right and know that we will all be exactly where we need to be, at exactly the right time. In the big picture, the Universe must be perfect. It can be no other way.

The short answer is to just be who you are, where you are, when you are. There really is no decision to make. We must live our lives authentically in every moment. If life remains familiar, it will continue to be comfortable. If tragedy strikes, we will adapt, for we must.

Humans will adapt and thrive, implementing lessons learned from the recent past. Or, nothing will happen and life as we know it will continue indefinitely.

Until Tomorrow.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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WikiLeaks: Bradley Manning isn't a criminal. He's a hero.

By Sheldon Richman

Little Rock, Ark. — First it was a video of a helicopter gunship killing and injuring unarmed Iraqi civilians, including two children, and two newsmen as they walked down a street in Baghdad.

Then in two separate document dumps, hundreds of thousands of classified military field reports from Iraq and Afghanistan were released to the public. Now more than a quarter-million State Department cables, more than 15,000 of which are classified “secret” and/or “noforn” (not to be shared with foreign governments), have been released without authorization.

The US government's problems with WikiLeaks continues, and the Obama administration “condemn[ed] in the strongest terms the unauthorized disclosure of classified documents and sensitive national security information.”

IN PICTURES: Wikileaks and the war in Iraq

The White House said the release of “stolen cables” was “reckless and dangerous.”

It attributed the leaks to Pfc. Bradley Manning, who has been in custody since the release of the Baghdad video, which WikiLeaks titled “Collateral Murder.” In July, Mr. Manning was charged with “transferring classified data onto his personal computer and adding unauthorized software to a classified computer system” and “communicating, transmitting and delivering national defense information to an unauthorized source.” He faces up to 52 years in prison.

Naturally, WikiLeaks refuses to confirm that Manning was the source of the documents, but assuming he was, what are we to make of him? Is he a hero or a villain?

I say hero. When a government secretly engages in such consequential activities as aggressive wars justified by at best questionable and at worst fabricated intelligence, covert bombings and assassinations,

and diplomatic maneuvering designed to support such global meddling, the people in whose name that government acts — and who could suffer retaliation — have a right to know.

Are ‘we the people’ really in charge? How can the American system be regarded as participatory if the most potentially explosive government conduct is hidden? Are “we the people” really in charge or not?

Or is “government of the people, by the people, for the people” so much pabulum to keep us contentedly ignorant? The same Obama administration that condemns the leaks has said:

“Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their Government is doing.” But if the government decides what constitutes transparency, how can it achieve either objective?

War is the most serious thing to which a government can commit a society. A government that can make war while keeping essential information about its justification and conduct secret is neither open nor fit for free people.

President Obama, like his predecessors, asks for our trust. He'd say he can't tell us everything, but government in a democratic society requires confidence in its leaders. A similar appeal for trust failed to impress Thomas Jefferson in 1798.

pagebreak

Bogus appeals for trustIn his protest of the Adams administration's Alien and Sedition Acts (which essentially criminalized harsh criticism of the government), Jefferson wrote in the Kentucky Resolutions, “[I]t would be a dangerous delusion were a confidence in the men of our choice to silence our fears for the safety of our rights: that confidence is everywhere the parent of despotism — free government is founded in jealousy, and not in confidence; it is

jealousy and not confidence which prescribes limited constitutions, to bind down those whom we are obliged to trust with power.”

Or as the Irish statesman John Philpot Curran said eight years earlier, “The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.”

Yet how can Americans exercise vigilance against government threats to their liberty if critical information is systematically withheld? They can't. That's why people such as Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers 39 years ago, and perhaps Manning heroically risked personal ruin and defied authority to bring that information to us.

Foreign policy vs. imperial foreign policyWikiLeaks' critics will say that foreign policy cannot be conducted in public. As stated, that assertion is false. It is only an imperial foreign policy that cannot be conducted in public. A policy of global policing and intervention does indeed require secrecy and intrigue, but the pacific foreign policy envisioned by Jefferson and George Washington — “The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible” — does not.

It is the rejection of George Washington's advice that has caused Americans to be concerned about their safety, especially when flying.

Many foreign policy “experts” hype the “dark, violent side” of Islam. Yet anti-American terrorism originating in the Muslim world has been solely in retaliation for US military invasions, occupations, and covert wars that have taken countless innocent lives. The work of Robert Pape, founder of the Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism, establishes this beyond a reasonable doubt. □



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Medvedev: Russia, NATO must reach missile deal

MANSUR MIROVALEV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — NATO's failure to build a joint European missile shield with Moscow may force Russia to deploy new offensive weapons and trigger a new arms race, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in a stern warning reflecting the deeply rooted Kremlin distrust of Western intentions.

Some experts downplayed the threat, saying that Russia lacks money and technologies to mount a military buildup.

NATO leaders have approved a plan for a missile defense in Europe at a summit in Lisbon earlier this month and invited Russia to join. Experts from both sides will analyze the issue and report to defense ministers in July.

"In the next 10 years, the following alternatives await us — either we reach agreement on missile defense and create a full joint cooperation mechanism, or, if we don't reach a constructive agreement, a new phase of the arms race will begin," Medvedev said Tuesday in his annual address to both houses of parliament that burst into loud applause. "And we will have to make a decision on deploying new means of attack. It's quite obvious that such a scenario would

be extremely grave."

Medvedev, who attended the Russia-NATO summit in Lisbon, was receptive of NATO's proposal but didn't make a definitive commitment. He warned then that Russia might decide against joining the U.S.-led effort if it doesn't feel it is being treated equally as a partner.

Medvedev's aide Arkady Dvorkovich told reporters Tuesday that the president views that scenario as "undoubtedly negative." "We will have to do everything to come to an agreement," he said.

Russia was strongly critical of the previous U.S. administration's plan to deploy missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic and hailed President Barack Obama's decision to scrap it. But Moscow has remained concerned about the revamped U.S. missile defense plans, seeing them as potentially dangerous to its security.

The New START nuclear arms reduction treaty that Obama and Medvedev signed in April doesn't prevent the U.S. from building new missile defense systems, but Russia has stated it could withdraw from the treaty if it feels threatened by such a system in the future. The pact's future looks bleak now after a key Senate Republican

said earlier this month that he does not want to vote on the treaty during the current session.

In Moscow on Tuesday, some experts viewed Medvedev's warning about the possibility of a new arms race with skepticism, saying that it could be part of muscle-flexing aimed at speeding up talks with the West and emphasizing that Moscow can't afford a Cold War-style arms race anyway.

"This is sheer nonsense," Alexander Kononov, director of the Moscow-based Institute for Strategic Assessment, an independent think tank, told The Associated Press. "Russia won't have the finances, technologies and industrial assets for any arms race."

Pavel Felgenhauer, an independent Moscow-based military analyst, also noted that despite the Kremlin's recent efforts to modernize military arsenals, Russia's current scientific and financial capabilities are far weaker than the Soviet military machine. "Because of Russia's technological backwardness, a real build-up is impossible," he said. Despite such limitations, some observers say that Russia's hawkish military officials and defense corporations have been pushing for more spending on new weapons.

"We have enough



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev speaks in Moscow's Kremlin, Russia, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010. In his annual address to members of both houses of parliament, Medvedev's focus on improving children's lives and encouraging larger families reflected serious concern over the demographic plunge that hit post-Soviet Russia.

Associated Press

corporations, groups and institutions that would push for the development of a multitude of new arms systems," foreign policy analyst Alexei Arbatov was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency.

Apart from the technological weaknesses, the Russian military also faces a manpower shortage. The problem is partly related to the demographic plunge Russia has faced after the Soviet collapse. Medvedev dedicated part

of his 72-minute address to the problem, exhorting lawmakers to make improving the lives of children Russia's top task and proposed giving free land to families with three or more children.

Because of high mortality rates and a declining birth rate, Russia's population shrank some 7 million people from its 1991 high. However, the country reported a small population increase last year, to 141.8 million. □

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Diplomatic memo leaks complicate picture in N. Korea



South Korean marines patrol on the Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea, Wednesday Dec. 1, 2010. After a major escalation of sporadic skirmishes between the rival Koreas, an international effort is trying to rein in rising tensions.

Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN A top South Korean official
JEAN H. LEE dismisses China's nuclear
negotiator as "incompetent."
Associated Press
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A Chinese envoy mocks North

Korea as a "spoiled child." After a major escalation of sporadic skirmishes between the rival Koreas, an international effort is trying to rein in rising tensions. But U.S. diplomatic memos leaked this week call into question whether regional powers — most notably China — have any insight into or influence over enigmatic and defiant North Korea.

South Korea's military drill last week from an island along a disputed maritime border sparked a North Korean artillery attack that killed four South Koreans and wounded 18 others. U.S.-South Korean war games are threatening to draw a new round of North Korean fire. Those drills, set to end Wednesday, include the USS George Washington nuclear-powered supercarrier in waters to the south of the disputed border.

China is pressing for an emergency meeting in the coming days to discuss the attack and ways to defuse tensions, saying the session should be convened by the two Koreas, China, Russia, Japan and the United States — the members of the stalled North Korean nuclear disarmament talks.

"China consistently supports dialogue between the North and South sides of the Korean peninsula to improve their relations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Tuesday.

The talks would be just what North Korea wants. After walking away from the talks in April 2009, Pyongyang has made clear in recent months that it is ready to restart the negotiations to gain much-needed fuel oil and aid in exchange for nuclear disarmament.

Seoul has reacted coolly.

South Korean officials said they must consider it carefully, citing Pyongyang's recent revelation of a new uranium enrichment facility that would give North Korea a second way to make nuclear bombs. Tokyo and Washington have backed Seoul, and the three powers arranged to meet in Washington — rather than Beijing — next week to discuss North Korea in a move that clearly underlined the fault line in the "six-party" negotiations.

U.S. officials said Washington was ruling out the six-party talks for the time being. The United States wants "China to urge North Korea to stop the destabilization," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said. "But I think there has to be a seriousness on the part of the North Koreans to get back to these talks."

Japan, too, rejected an immediate round of aid-for-disarmament talks, but sent its envoy to the North Korean nuclear discussions, Akitaka Saiki, to China to meet with counterpart Wu Dawei. Saiki told Wu it wasn't the right time to restart the talks, according to the Kyodo News Agency.

China, belatedly waking up to its role as North Korea's mentor, invited high-ranking North Korean official Choe Thae Bok, an aide to leader Kim Jong Il, to Beijing for talks. Kyodo reported from the Chinese capital that State Councilor Dai Bingguo, meanwhile, was to visit North Korea, possibly on Wednesday, to urge North Korea to join the emergency meeting. The agency cited unnamed diplomatic sources. All parties will have competing ideas on how to resolve the tension, said Kim Keun-sik, a North Korea analyst at South Korea's Kyungnam

University.

"North Korea and China will want to resolve the matter through dialogue, while South Korea and the U.S. will say, 'Why negotiate at this time?' and think about pressure and punitive measures," he said.

Consensus may be hard to reach, if secret U.S. diplomatic cables posted online by the website WikiLeaks are any indication.

China is Pyongyang's closest ally: Beijing fought on the northern side of the Korean War, its aid props up the current government and its actions have often insulated North Korea from foreign pressure. It has repeatedly opposed harsh economic sanctions and responded to North Korean provocations by repeating calls for a return to denuclearization talks.

However, Chinese officials are quoted as using mocking language in reference to North Korea, with then-Deputy Foreign Minister He Yafei telling a U.S. official in April 2009 that Pyongyang was acting like a "spoiled child" by staging a missile test to try to achieve its demand of bilateral talks with Washington.

China would appear to have little ability to stop a collapse and less influence over the authorities in Pyongyang than is widely believed, South Korea's then-Vice Foreign Minister, Chun Yung-woo, is quoted as telling U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Stephens in February.

China lacks the will to push North Korea to change its behavior, according to Chun, who said the choice to keep Wu — considered "the most incompetent official in China" — as nuclear envoy was "a very bad thing" and indicative of Beijing's disregard for the process. □

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Student protests turn violent in Rome

ROME (AP) — Students protesting state university budget cuts clashed Tuesday with riot police who used tear gas and police vans to seal off much of Rome's historic center to stop the demonstrators from reaching Parliament.

There were no reports of serious injuries or damage. Less violent protests were staged in cities across the country.

The demonstrations came hours before lawmakers approved the contested reform bill many students and professors say will give the private sector too much involvement in the state university system. Protesters claim the funding cuts mean faculty positions will go

unfilled.

The protests turned briefly violent as students — about 3,000 in all with a core group of about 200 — poured onto the main thoroughfare of the historic center, throwing eggs, tomatoes and smoke bombs at police.

At one point, protesters tried to overturn a police van. Riot police charged after them, using tear gas.

The heavy police presence, designed to prevent the protesters from reaching the square outside the Chamber of Deputies, blocked bus and tram routes for hours and jammed traffic on the main roads leading into the center. Romans and tourists alike were further inconvenienced when

the students then marched on Rome's main train station and occupied several tracks, the ANSA news agency reported. Despite the problems, many onlookers said they understood the students' concerns.

"Given the situation, I'm hoping for a new '68," said Nicola Roncolli, a 67-year-old retiree, referring to the massive student protests of 1968. He said his detours around a rain-soaked city center were a "necessary evil" and that he would have been marching alongside the students except that he's not well.

After the clashes, while the protesters retreated the eggshells, squashed tomatoes and other garbage remained on the streets.



Students face policemen in riot gears during a protest against the government-proposed education reforms which are being voted in the Italian parliament, in Rome, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010. Thousands of students across Italy have occupied university buildings, bridges and piazzas to protest education cuts and reforms proposed by the Education minister Mariastella Gelmini.

Associated Press

"They want to keep us out of sight because they know they're wrong," said protester Giacomo Luni, a student at Rome's La Sapienza university.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi brushed off the protests, saying "serious" students were home studying. He defended

the reforms as necessary to modernize education in Italy. Similar protests snarled other cities, including Milan, Turin, Naples, Venice, Palermo and Bari. In Genoa, students protested under the slogan "they block our future, we block the cities." □

Latest Pompeii collapse: Garden wall gives way



A stretch of garden wall ringing an ancient house in Pompeii which gave way after days of torrential rain, is cordoned off in Pompeii, Italy, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010. Pompeii officials said an inspection found that a 40-foot-long section of wall forming part of the perimeter of a garden area near the House of the Moralist gave way in several points. They said the extreme soggy of the soil brought down the wall in an area that hasn't been excavated near the house.

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A stretch of garden wall ringing an ancient house in Pompeii gave way Tuesday after days of torrential rain, the latest structure to collapse at the popular archaeological site. Pompeii officials said an inspection found that a 40-foot-long section of wall forming part of the perimeter of a garden area near the House of the Moralist gave way in several points. They said the extreme soggy of

Associated Press
the soil brought down the wall in an area that hasn't been excavated near the house.

Italy's is struggling to preserve its immense archaeological wealth for future generations. A few weeks ago, Italy was embarrassed when a frescoed house, the Schola Armaturarum, where gladiators prepared for combat, was reduced to a pile of stones and dust in seconds. Less than a year ago, another building, the House of the Chaste Lovers, collapsed in Pompeii.

The House of the Moralist wasn't affected by the wall's demise "and isn't at risk for collapse," Pompeii excavations director Antonio Varone said.

The Schola and the House of the Moralist are only a few steps away from each other along one of Pompeii's main streets, which are usually thronged with some of the 3 million tourists who traipse the paths each year.

The House of the Moralist includes the remains of the homes of two families in the ancient city that was buried by the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. It is one of many structures in Pompeii that are off-limits to tourists, and no one was injured in the wall's collapse, which was discovered early in the morning before opening hours.

Made of tufa rock, the garden wall was heavily damaged during the U.S. bombing of the Naples area in World War II. It was rebuilt after the war using a mix of the ancient stones and modern material, said Daniela Leone, an official of the state Naples and Pompeii Archaeological Superintendency.

Earlier this year the wall was reinforced, but the reinforcement work was "swept away by the violence" of the storms, the Pompeii archaeology office said in a statement.

Coincidentally, Carabinieri police were in the ruins when the garden wall came down. The officers were inspecting the gladiators house as part of efforts to pinpoint the cause of that collapse and decide if that structure can be reconstructed.

Culture Minister Sandro Bondi instructed ministry officials to keep monitoring Pompeii but warned against "useless alarmism."

A no-confidence motion against Bondi, proposed by opposition parties after the gladiator house collapsed, had been scheduled to be voted on in Parliament on Monday, but work on legislation caused the vote to be put off until a date to be determined. □

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Italian cuisine, all served in a friendly, casual setting.

On the menu, a wide variety of Spanish Tapas, appetizers starting at \$2.95, and plentiful Paellas, made daily, filled with mussels, clams, shrimp, pork loin and chicken. The menu also boasts famous Pata Negra ham, Chorizo, and other specialty dry-cured pork sausage.

Naturally, the restaurant's whole Grilled Red Snapper, fresh fish fillets and beef tenderloins are all cooked "A la Plancha," with just a sprinkle of olive oil, representing a healthy Mediterranean lifestyle. Patrons also favor the restaurant irresistible thin-crust pizza, baked according to a secret family recipe, topped with Casa Tua infused spicy olive oil, a signature condiment for Casa Tua restaurants on the Island.

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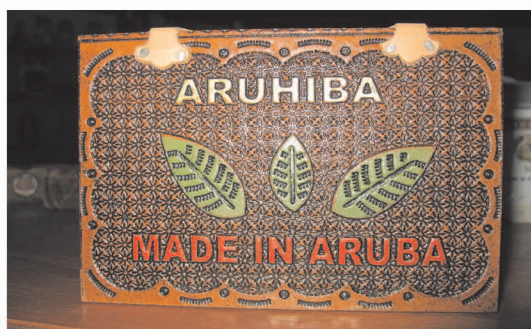
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If any player deserves more millions it's Jeter



In this Sept. 9, 2009, photo, New York Yankees' Derek Jeter stands at first after hitting a single during a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

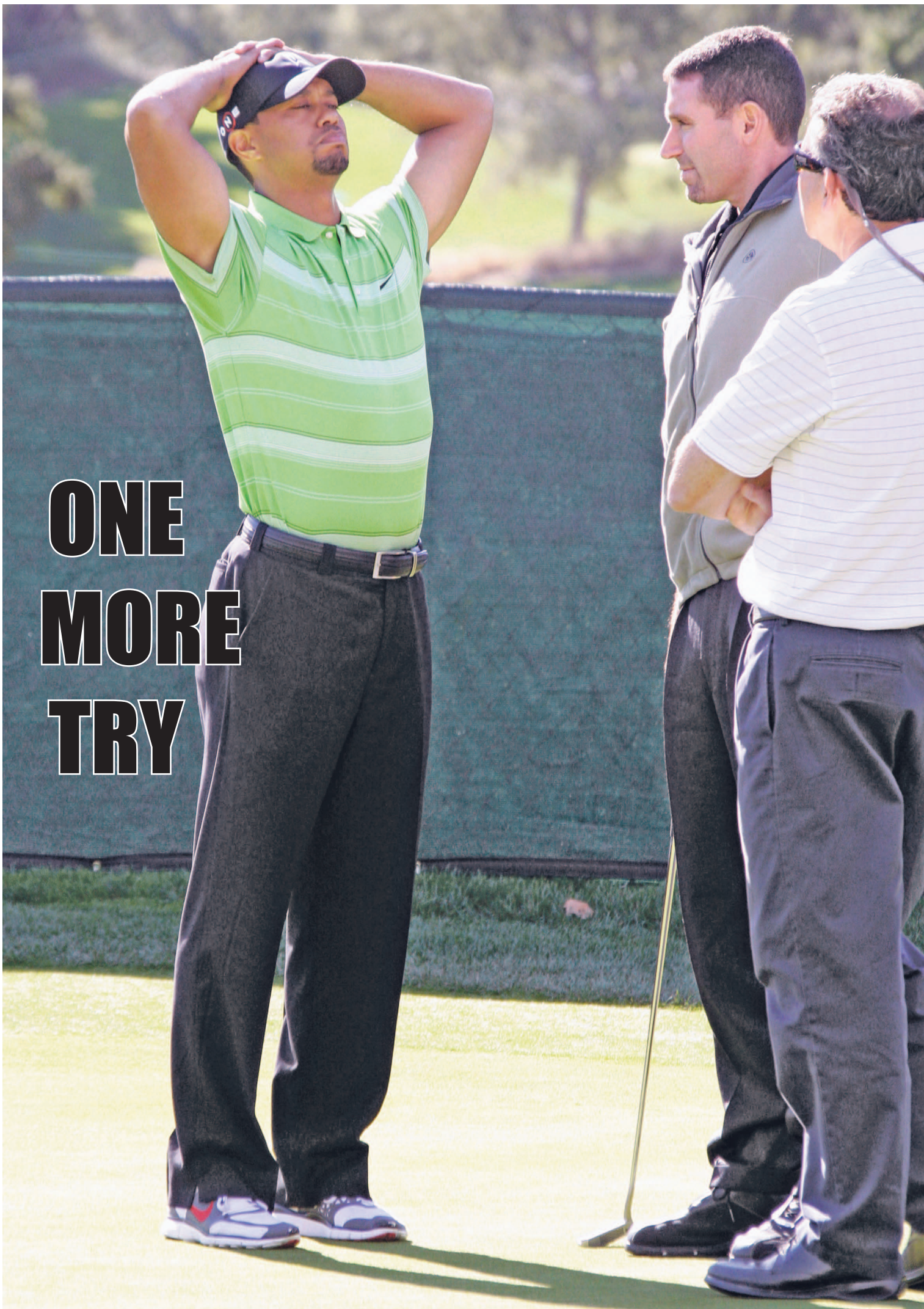
There will come a time in the near future when a plaque honoring Derek Jeter will join some of the great Yankees of the past behind the center-field fence at the new stadium in the Bronx.

Not a terribly large one, of course, because the oversized tribute to George Steinbrenner now hogs most of the space in Monument Park. But a plaque nonetheless, complete with a likeness of the shortstop and some numbers delineating his years of service to the Yankees.

That those years are winding down is the one thing both sides in Jeter's current contract talks might agree upon. Shortstop is a position for a young player to occupy, and Jeter is now 36 and coming off a season where his batting average plummeted 64 points to .270.

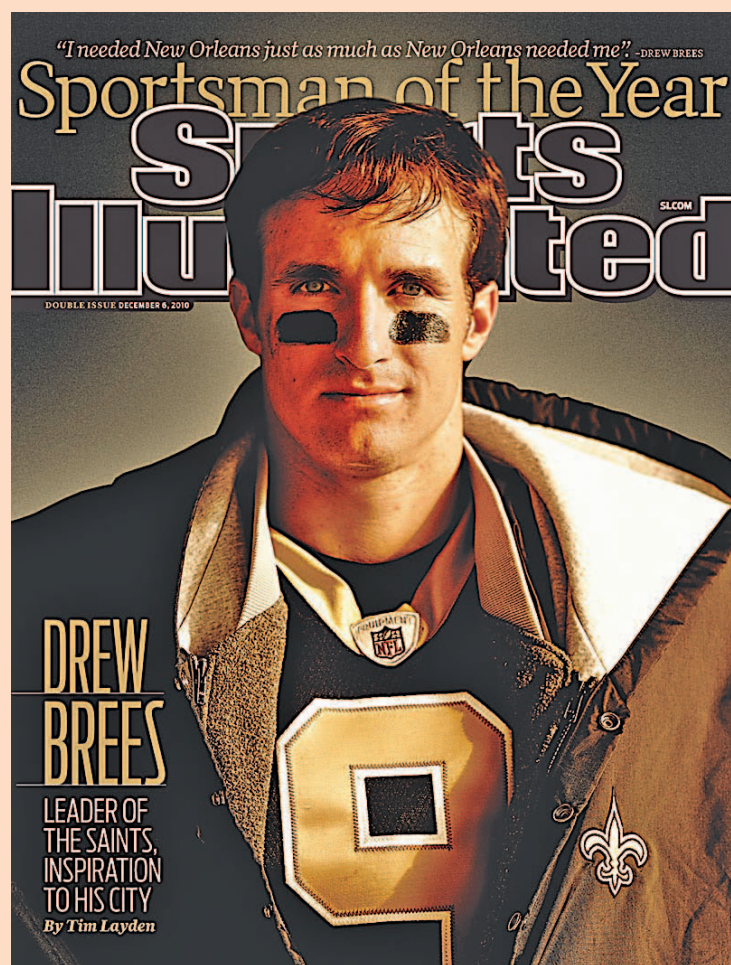
His value to the Yankees going forward won't necessarily be in leading off a game with a double or flashing some leather up the middle.

Continued on Page B8



ONE MORE TRY

U.S has big hopes for 2022 World Cup ... Page B6



Drew Brees is Sports Illustrated's sportsman of year

NEW YORK — Drew Brees was honored as Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year for his championship on the field and his charity off it. Brees became the award's 57th recipient when the magazine made the announcement Tuesday on the "Today" show. The quarterback led the long-suffering New Orleans Saints to their first Super Bowl title in February, lifting the spirits of the hurricane-battered city. But the cover story notes he's done much more than inspire with his brilliant play. Since Brees joined the Saints in 2006 months after Hurricane Katrina, his foundation has worked with nearly 50 New Orleans schools and organizations to aid in recovery. "The more that I've learned about the award and that it goes well beyond what you accomplish on the field, that it's very much about what you do off the field as well, with community service and

your family, makes the award even more special to me," Brees said. Brees is the fifth NFL quarterback to be honored and third in six years. The Pittsburgh Steelers' Terry Bradshaw won in 1979, the San Francisco 49ers' Joe Montana in 1990, the New England Patriots' Tom Brady in 2005 and the Green Bay Packers' Brett Favre in 2007. Sports Illustrated Group editor Terry McDonell said he had been "determined not to be a slave to a calendar" in considering NFL players, even though it might seem like an eternity between the Super Bowl and the announcement of the award. But Brees' contributions outside of football made this selection easy. "It's year-round for him," McDonell said. Brees will be recognized at a ceremony in New York on Tuesday with past winners including Bill Russell, Curt Schilling and Montana. □

Steelers' Harrison fined \$25K for Fitzpatrick hit

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Steelers linebacker James Harrison was fined \$25,000 on Tuesday for his penalized hit on Buffalo quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick.

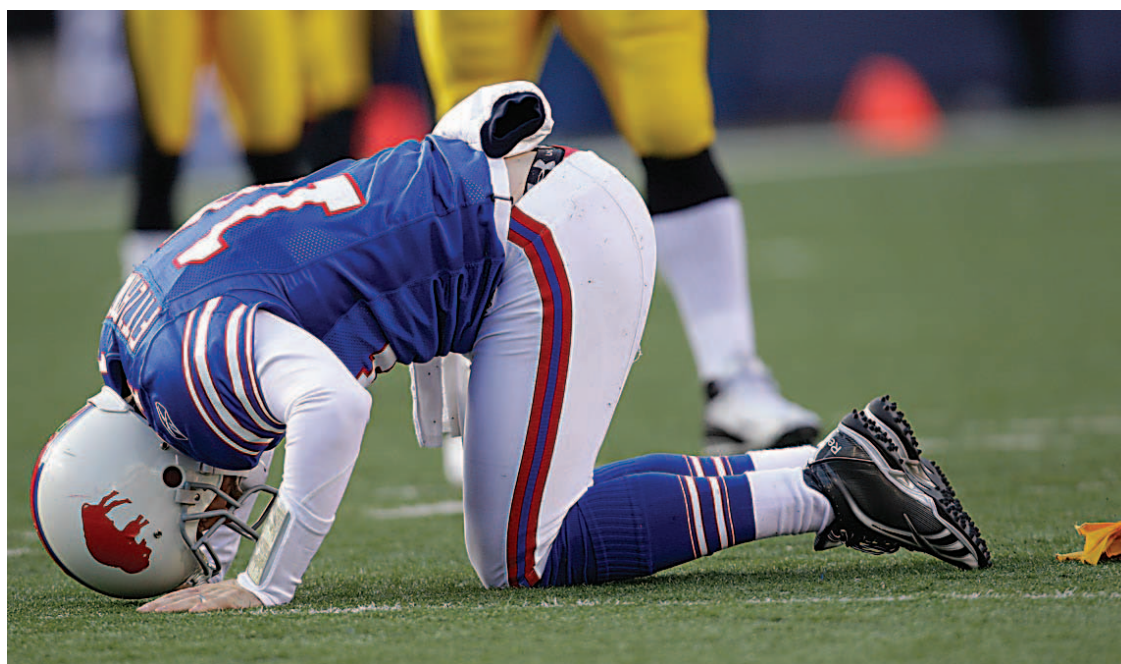
Harrison has four fines this season totaling \$125,000.

Harrison drew a roughing-the-passer penalty for hitting Fitzpatrick helmet-first during Pittsburgh's 19-16 overtime victory Sunday. "James Harrison was fined \$25,000 for roughing the passer, specifically he made helmet contact to the chest of the Buffalo quarterback, who was in a defenseless position at the time the contact was made," the NFL said in an e-mail Tuesday to The Associated Press.

After the game, the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker said the play didn't warrant a fine. He compared it to his Nov. 21 roughing-the-passer penalty against Raiders quarterback Jason Campbell that did not draw a fine.

"I'm not expecting a fine," Harrison said. "It's the exact thing as last week. It was the same exact hit. I hit him (Fitzpatrick) the same way I did the quarterback from Oakland and I got the same flag but I didn't get a fine. ... I'm expecting the same thing on this."

Harrison previously was fined \$75,000 for a helmet hit on Browns wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi, \$20,000 for a helmet-to-the-back hit on Saints quarterback Drew Brees and



In this photo taken Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, Buffalo Bills quaterback Ryan Fitzpatrick gets up after a hit by Pittsburgh Steelers' James Harrison, not shown, during the second half of an NFL football game in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Associated Press

\$5,000 for a hit on Titans quarterback Vince Young. On Monday, the league rejected Harrison's appeals of the \$75,000 and \$20,000 fines, although the Steelers supported Harrison's appeal. Steelers coach Mike Tomlin declined Tuesday to debate whether Harrison should have been fined for the Fitzpatrick play. But Tomlin suggested Harrison needs to alter his tackling style to conform to the NFL's stricter

enforcement of dangerous hits — a toughened stance that was prompted, in part, by the Massaquoi hit. "Obviously he does because the league doesn't agree with him," Tomlin said. "My opinion doesn't matter." Tomlin also was asked if it's fair that the league keeps singling out Harrison for large fines. "Man, life isn't fair," Tomlin said. "I'm not concerned about fairness. I'm really

not. I'm concerned about preparing for the Baltimore Ravens" on Sunday. Earlier this season, Tomlin and Steelers President Art Rooney II defended Harrison, and Tomlin told his players he doesn't want the league's stance to affect the way they play. Rooney also said the league was wrong for disciplining players for what he felt were legal hits, including the Harrison hit on Massaquoi. □

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Westbrook rushes for 136 yards; 49ers roll 27-6

BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — Brian Westbrook rushed for 136 yards and a touchdown in place of the injured Frank Gore and the San Francisco 49ers sent punchless Arizona to its sixth straight loss, 27-6 Monday.

NFL Roundup Westbrook, who had 9 yards on five carries all season, ran 23 times in his 21st career 100-yard game, but first since Dec. 7, 2008, for Philadelphia against the New York Giants.

San Francisco (4-7), beaten at home by Tampa Bay 21-0 last week, improved to 3-1 since Troy Smith became starting quarterback and pulled within a game of co-leaders St. Louis and Seattle in the anemic NFC West.

Arizona (3-8), two-time defending division champion, has not lost this many in a row since dropping eight straight in 2006, Dennis Green's final season as coach.

The 49ers rushed for 261 yards, by far their season high and the most allowed by the Cardinals this season. Westbrook, who led the league in rushing in 2007, was released a year ago after eight, often-spectacular seasons with Philadelphia, a move caused by a combination of his age and injury history as well as the \$7.5 million he would have been due this season.

He signed with San

Francisco on Aug. 16, but had hardly played at all until Gore went down on Monday.

The Arizona defense did not provide much resistance as San Francisco pushed around the home team at the line of scrimmage from the start. The Cardinal's tepid performance brought a shower of boos from the home crowd.

Gore injured a hip in the first quarter and briefly tried to come back before going out for good in the second period.

He had 25 and 15 yards in his first two carries, a sign of things to come against an Arizona defense that entered the game last in the league in points allowed.

Smith didn't need to pass much, completing 11 of 23 for 129 yards with one touchdown and an interception.

San Francisco, a team that has not scored more than 24 points in a game all season, led 21-6 at the half. The 49ers hadn't scored that many by halftime in two years.

The Cardinals committed their 27th turnover of the season on their first play from scrimmage when Derek Anderson and Beanie Wells botched a handoff and Aubrayo Franklin recovered for San Francisco. On the next play, Smith threw 38 yards to Michael Crabtree for the touchdown, the receiver making a diving catch in the end zone.

Wells gained a measure of redemption on the next possession. Playing as a wideout to the right, he caught a 43-yard pass from Anderson but a season-long red zone problem continued and Jay Feely's 31-yard field goal made it 7-3.

Ted Ginn Jr. had a kickoff return of 41 yards and a punt return for 42, both leading to San Francisco touchdowns.

The 49ers went 55 yards in 10 plays after the kickoff, Anthony Dixon leaping over from the 1-yard line to make it 14-3 with 29 seconds to go in the first.

Shane Andrus, kicking in place of injured Joe Nedney, missed a 47-yard field goal on San Francisco's first possession. He also had a 37-yarder blocked by Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie in the third quarter.

Arizona blew an opportunity late in the first half after Smith's pass bounced off the hands of Vernon Davis and was intercepted by Michael Adams at the San Francisco 42. Anderson threw three incompletions and the Cardinals punted. The boos that had started midway through the first quarter were louder than ever as the teams left the field.

LaRod Stephens-Howling briefly got the fans back in it with an 83-yard kickoff return to start the second half, but it was called back by a holding penalty against Arizona rookie Daryl Washington. □



San Francisco 49ers running back Brian Westbrook, center, rushes for a touchdown between Arizona Cardinals defenders Paris Lenon, left, and Adrian Wilson, right, during the second quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press



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Crosby leads Penguins past Rangers 3-1

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sidney Crosby extended his point streak to 13 games and the Pittsburgh Penguins won their seventh straight by beating the New York Rangers 3-1 on Monday.

NHL Roundup The Penguins, 9-0-1 in their past 10, haven't lost since falling to the Rangers at home in overtime on Nov. 15. Their previous loss in regulation was Nov. 11 against Boston. It is the Penguins' longest winning streak since another seven-game run in October 2009. Maxime Talbot scored in the first period, and goals by Kris Letang and Chris Conner in the second stretched Pittsburgh's lead to 3-0. Marc-Andre Fleury finished with 25 saves to earn his ninth win.

Crosby, the leader in votes for the NHL All-Star game, assisted on Letang's fifth of the season. He has 12 goals and 14 assists during his point streak and is the league's scoring leader with 41 points.

Marian Gaborik scored for the Rangers.

Stars 4, Hurricanes 1

At Raleigh, North Carolina, James Neal scored twice and Kari Lehtonen made 27 saves to lift the surging Dallas Stars over Carolina. Jamie Benn had a goal and an assist while Steve Ott had the other goal for the Stars, who have won four in a row. They've earned points in seven of their last eight games to move into first place in the Pacific Division.

It was Dallas' second win ever in Raleigh.

Eric Staal scored his third goal in his last four games

and Cam Ward stopped 29 shots for Carolina, which was playing its fourth game in six nights.

Oilers 4, Senators 1

At Ottawa, Andrew Cogliano and Gilbert Brule each had a goal and an assist in the third period to lead Edmonton past Ottawa.

Martin Gerber made 22 saves to win for the second time in two starts for Edmonton. Tom Gilbert scored a power-play goal late in the second to draw the Oilers even at 1.

Cogliano deflected Brule's slap shot past Brian Elliott to give Edmonton a 2-1 lead 4:19 into the third. Brule tapped home Cogliano's centering pass at 12:48 to put the Oilers up 3-1. Dustin Penner assisted on both goals.

Taylor Hall scored into an empty net with 1:55 remaining.

Nick Foligno scored in the first for the Senators, who have lost six of eight.

Flames 3, Wild 0

At Calgary, Alberta, Miikka Kiprusoff made 32 saves and Jarome Iginla had a goal and an assist in Calgary's victory over Minnesota.

Calgary defenseman Jay Bouwmeester opened the scoring and Niklas Hagman added an insurance goal late in the third period for the Flames, who had lost four of five at home.

That was all the offense Kiprusoff needed in his 37th career shutout and third this season.

The Wild have lost four of five. They had won seven of the previous eight meetings, including three straight in Calgary.

At Anaheim, California, Jonas Hiller made 27



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) follows through on a shot during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010. The Penguins won 3-1.

saves in his seventh career shutout, rookie defenseman Cam Fowler scored as Anaheim beat the slumping Los Angeles Kings in the first meeting of the annual Freeway Faceoff.

Jason Blake scored with 2:24 left and Teemu Selanne had two assists for the

Ducks, who have won two straight after a six-game skid. Hiller punctuated his first shutout of the season with a sparkling glove save on Anze Kopitar's point-blank chance in the final minutes.

Jonathan Quick stopped 17 shots for the Kings, who

have lost seven of eight after a six-game winning streak.

In other NHL games it was Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 1; Dallas 4, Carolina 1; Edmonton 4, Ottawa 1; Calgary 3, Minnesota 0; and Anaheim 2, Los Angeles 0. □

APNewsBreak: Impasse in McCourts mediation

GREG RISLING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge declared an impasse Tuesday over efforts to settle who owns the Los Angeles Dodgers after a bitter divorce between the couple who bought the team six years ago.

Superior Court Judge Peter Lichtman had given both sides more than a week to accept a settlement proposal, which was kept confidential.

Lichtman declared an impasse and reported it to Superior Court Judge Scott Gordon, who presided over an 11-day trial that centered on whether a postnuptial marital agreement is valid, said court spokeswoman Patricia Kelly. Attorney Marc Seltzer, who represents Frank McCourt, said in a statement that his client accepted the proposal by Lichtman.

"He felt it was the responsible thing to do for his family, the Dodgers organization and the entire community," Seltzer said.

An impasse occurs when two sides are unable to reach an agreement, which likely means Jamie McCourt rejected the proposal, Seltzer said. Lichtman wasn't going to inform either side if the other hadn't accepted the deal.

Michael Kump, a lawyer for Jamie McCourt,

couldn't say if his client agreed or declined the proposal.

"We believe the court ordered complete confidentiality regarding the settlement proposal and everything related to it," Kump said. "It would be a violation if we said anything at all."

The McCourts' divorce recently was finalized after the couple were married for nearly 30 years. They have four grown sons.

The McCourts are awaiting Gordon's decision on whether a postnuptial marital agreement they signed in 2004 is valid. The 10-page document exists in two versions: one that gives Frank McCourt sole ownership of the Dodgers, the stadium and the surrounding property, worth hundreds of millions of dollars; and one that doesn't.

A family attorney testified during the divorce trial that he changed a key portion of the marital agreement that went from excluding the Dodgers from Frank McCourt's separate property to including the team, and didn't tell the couple.

Jamie McCourt, who filed for divorce in October 2009, wants the agreement thrown out and their assets divided as community property. □

NBA Roundup

Miami beats Washington

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 30 points, Dwyane Wade added 26 as the Miami Heat pulled away steadily to beat Washington 105-94 on Monday, keeping the Wizards winless away from home this season. Chris Bosh finished with 20 for the Heat, who won for just the second time in their past six games. James got Miami going with 20 in the first half, Wade then helped seal the win with 22 in the second half.

It was the 100th regular-season win for Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, in his 182nd game.

Andray Blatche scored 26 points and had nine rebounds for Washington, which is 0-8 on the road. Gilbert Arenas added 23 for Washington.

The Wizards were without No. 1 draft pick John Wall, who missed his second straight game with a bruised right knee.

Thunder 95, Hornets 89
At Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 12 of his 25 points during a decisive 14-0 run late in the fourth quarter and had 11 assists

as Oklahoma rallied to beat New Orleans.

Westbrook scored six in a row to tie the game, then kept going with a driving layup and a 3-pointer that put the Thunder up 88-81 with 1:38 to play. After the 3-pointer, he mocked slamming guns down into holsters at his side.

Kevin Durant hit four free throws down the stretch to seal the game and finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

David West scored 20 points to lead New Orleans but missed his final six shots while Oklahoma City was making its comeback. Chris Paul added 17 points, 14 assists and five steals as the Hornets lost for the fourth time in five games after an 11-1 start.

Mavericks 101, Rockets 91
At Dallas, Caron Butler scored 13 of his 19 points during a decisive third-quarter run and Dirk Nowitzki had 20 points and 10 rebounds as Dallas stretched their winning streak to six games with a victory over Houston.

Shawn Marion added 14 points and 10 rebounds, and J.J. Barea scored 11 for the

Mavericks.

Kevin Martin's 17 points and Luis Scola's 15 paced the Rockets, who've lost six of eight.

Dallas used a 17-6 third-quarter run capped by 11 straight from Butler to expand a seven-point halftime edge to 77-59.

The Mavs carried an 83-71 lead into the final quarter, and were up by as many as 22 down the stretch.

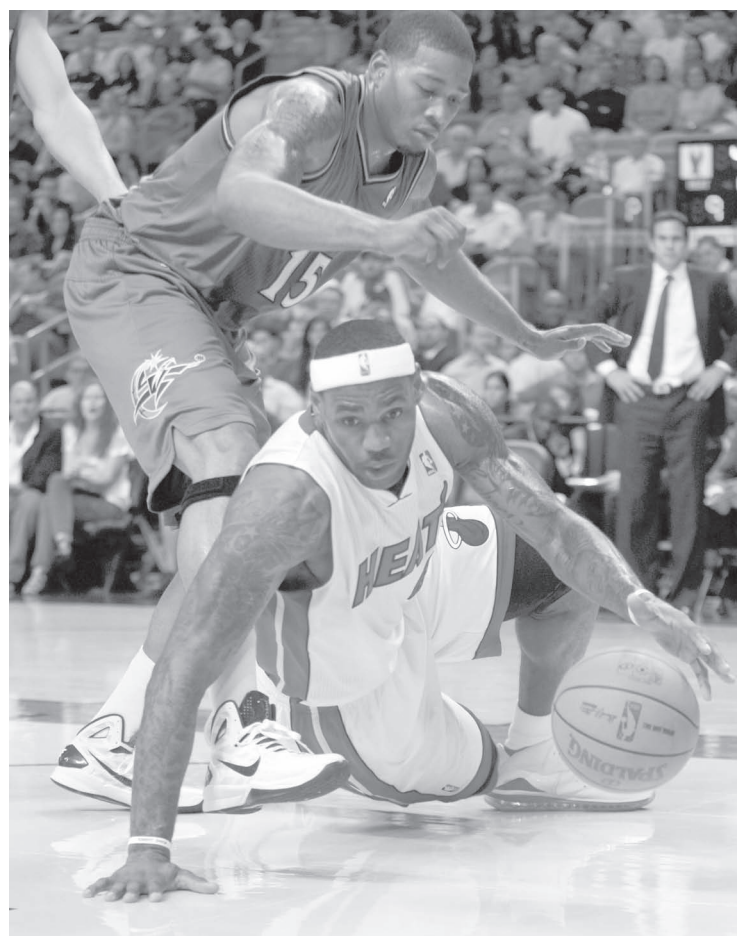
Jazz 109, Bucks 88

At Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson had 22 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots to lead Utah to a victory over injury-depleted Milwaukee.

Deron Williams also scored 22 points for the Jazz (14-5), who have won six straight.

Brandon Jennings led Milwaukee (6-11) with 27 points while Ersan Ilyasova added 18 for the Bucks. Milwaukee, again missing three key players because of injury, made 7 of 12 3-pointers in the first half to keep it close.

But the Bucks couldn't keep up with Utah's inside game without big men Andrew Bogut and Drew Gooden. The Jazz held a 54-18 advantage in the paint and



Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas (9) drives around Miami Heat's Mario Chalmers, left, in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010. The Heat won 105-94.

Associated Press

48-26 edge in rebounds. **94; Oklahoma City 95,** They also had 10 blocked **New Orleans 89; Dallas** shot. **101, Houston 91; and**

In other NBA games it was Utah 109, Milwaukee Miami 105, Washington 88. □

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U.S. awaits 2022 World Cup with big hopes

U.S. looks to net World Cup

Eighteen cities have been selected as host cities for the United States' bid for the 2022 World Cup. The number of potential cities likely would be pared down to 9-12 in the years leading up to the tournament if the U.S. wins the bid on Thursday.



U.S. map shows the 18 cities selected as official host cities for the United States' bid for the 2022 World Cup

Associated Press

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As

Americans celebrated the Fourth of July in 1988, a present arrived from Zurich:

The World Cup was headed to the United States for the first time. "The richest land in the world simply cannot be allowed to remain a blank spot on the world map of soccer any longer," Hermann Neuberger, president of West German soccer's governing body, said at the time. Since that watershed 1994 World Cup the global game is now very much a part of the country's sports landscape. There's a national team that's played in six straight World Cups, three television networks that are pretty much all soccer, constant additional exposure on ESPN2 and a growing league preparing for its 16th season — albeit one still struggling to gain attention in a market dominated by the NFL, Major League Baseball and the NBA. Bidders promise another burst of explosive growth if FIFA's executive committee awards the 2022 tournament to the United States when it votes Thursday in Zurich. Australia, Japan, Qatar and South Korea are the competition.

"We've got all of the infrastructure in place, and it's extraordinary infrastructure, which allows us to focus on growing the game and using the World Cup to do that in the United States and have the U.S. become an important part of the global community in this," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I think it

changes the economics in a positive way for FIFA and other associations."

The 1994 World Cup transformed FIFA's business side.

Names on the backs of players' jerseys?

It started in the U.S.

Corporate tents?

First made in America.

All-Star teams and relentless promotion?

Ditto.

Much of soccer has never seen anything like Dallas Cowboys Stadium, with its 50-yard-wide video screen hovering above field, 10,000 club seats and 300 luxury suites ringing five levels — the expensive seats alone just about match the 20,224 total capacity of Portsmouth's Fratton Park.

Hard to compare that with those in the original bid presented by the U.S. 22 years ago, which included such antiques as Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Md., John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia and Palmer Stadium in Princeton, N.J.

FIFA's technical report says attendance at a U.S. World Cup could average 76,000, breaking the record of 68,991 set in 1994. It says there is medium legal risk because of a lack of government guarantees, which would require federal legislation after a bid is awarded.

"Clearly for us, there is nothing that we could do in the United States, whether

it be our federation or Major League Soccer, that would be more important than having the World Cup here in our country," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said.

"Hosting the World Cup in the U.S. is by far the biggest opportunity for our league to capitalize on the growing interest for the sport and ultimately convert that interest to a deeper connection with our league, our clubs and our players." Gulati and his delegation have spent months lobbying the 22 voters. They'll bring along a group for the final presentation that includes former President Bill Clinton, Attorney General Eric Holder, actor Morgan Freeman, national team star Landon Donovan, former women's team star Mia Hamm and her husband, former Boston Red Sox star Nomar Garciaparra. "It's an election," Gulati said. "And in some sense, in elections you never know where you are until the very last minute, until the vote is taken. There's not accurate polling, per se. So we'll continue to work until the last minute." FIFA also is selecting the 2018 site that day, picking from among England, Russia, Spain-Portugal and Belgium-Netherlands. USSF officials hope to one day have a team that wins World Cups, a league that produces clubs as strong as Manchester United, Barcelona and AC Milan — likely the three most popular teams in the United States. □



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Tiger Woods gets last chance for a win this year

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. —

The goal for Tiger Woods has always been to be better than he was the year before. Despite losing his marriage and every tournament he played, he still gave himself a passing grade. “As a golfer, I learned so much more this year than any other year — and as a person, infinitely more,” Woods said Tuesday. “So it’s been a very successful year, even though it was a very painful year, as well.”

That year comes to a close with the Chevron World Challenge, which starts Thursday featuring an 18-man field of players inside the top 50 in the world ranking. Woods has won the last two times he played, although he missed the last two years — in 2008 while recovering from knee surgery, and last year because of the Thanksgiving night accident that led to revelations of his infidelity.

It was a year that Woods described as “harder than anyone could have imagined.” On Tuesday of tournament week a year ago, the Florida Highway Patrol cited him for reckless driving and fined him \$164 for running his SUV over a fire hydrant and into a tree outside his home, while a magazine had a cover story from a cocktail waitress who said she had 300 text messages to prove her 31-month affair with Woods.

His personal life was just starting to unravel.

Woods said he never thought about walking away from golf for the entire year, shooting down speculation in a book that he would enlist in the Navy. Woods said as a kid, he either wanted to be a pro golfer or a Navy SEAL.

“I love playing the game of golf,” Woods said. “It’s fun, it’s certainly challenging, and it’s also something that I know when I do it right, I’m pretty good at it.”

That was not lost on Ian Poulter as he hit balls on the range Tuesday morning and talked about the world ranking, amazed that Woods has lost more ranking points than any player has earned this year.

Poulter recalled a time not long ago when the distance between Woods and whoever was No. 2 in the world was greater than No. 2 and the player ranked 100th or lower. “It shows how good,” Poulter said, pausing. It sounded as though he was ready to say “how good he was,” but the Englishman caught himself, because he believes Woods will return. “It shows how good he can be when he’s at his best.”

Can he get it back?

“I think it’s in him even more,” Poulter said.

Woods talked about the need to change his personal life and his golf swing, but he never explained until Tuesday why he had to change a swing



In this photo taken Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, Buffalo Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick gets up after a hit by Pittsburgh Steelers’ James Harrison, not shown, during the second half of an NFL football game in Orchard Park, N.Y. Harrison was penalized for roughing the passer on the play. Harrison has been fined \$25,000 for his hit on Fitzpatrick, bringing the total of his four fines this season to \$125,000.

Associated Press

that had brought him 31 tour victories, including six majors, under Hank Haney.

“As I played throughout the summer, I kept trying to do the things that I was working on with Hank over the years, and it just wasn’t working anymore, and it got to a point where I just couldn’t do it,” he said. “It’s kind of hard to try and play tournament level golf, major championship golf especially, when at the time I was struggling with which way the ball was going to go. That’s not fun.”

Why wasn’t it working?

“For some reason, it just wasn’t,” he said. “And it was time to go a different route.” Woods is back to work this week, although only he knows to what degree his life is back to normal.

He had a board meeting with the Tiger Woods Foundation on Monday night — Woods picked up the tab for dinner — and more meetings as the host of this tournament on Tuesday before a press conference and some work on the practice range.

He no longer is grilled about his personal life, including his divorce in August.

Instead, the focus has shifted back to his golf game, and there hasn’t been much to report on that front. Woods went without a win on the PGA Tour for the first time in his career. He lost his No. 1 ranking for the first time in

five years to Lee Westwood of England.

The Chevron World Challenge does not count as official on the PGA Tour, although it does offer world ranking points, and Woods mathematically will have a chance to get back to No. 1 this week with a victory. That seems unlikely given his recent form.

Woods was asked why he hadn’t won this year, whether it was mechanical or mental, long game or short game.

“All of the above,” Woods said. “I think I’ve dealt with a few things off the golf course, and on the golf course I’ve had to make some changes in my game. You combine all that together, it’s very hard to be efficient for 72 straight holes.”

He has shown flashes — 7 under over his last seven holes in a Ryder Cup singles match, 6 under in his last six holes in Australia.

Still, this year goes down as an anomaly with Woods. No majors. No wins. And a career-worst 68th on the money list.

“It’s been difficult, but also it’s been very rewarding at the same time,” Woods said. “It forced me to look deeper into myself and ... how I grew up and how those things didn’t match with the person who I am, and getting back to that, getting back to how my parents raised me. It’s been good. I’m very excited about the future because of that.” □

An idea for a world ranking award

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — One proposal that could make its way to the Official World Golf Ranking board is changing the criteria for the Mark H. McCormack Award, given to the player who has been No. 1 in the world for the most weeks during the year.

Tiger Woods is the only winner of the award since it began in 1998. He already has wrapped up the award this year. He was No. 1 at the start of 2010 and stayed there for 10 months.

The proposal, which is being discussed but has not been formalized, would be to give the award to the player who has accrued the most world ranking points during the year. If that were the case, it would come down to Martin Kaymer (346.326 points), Lee Westwood (340.207) and Luke Donald (317.675).

Players would be rewarded for performing best against the strongest fields, yet they also would not be affected by playing more tournaments because it would be about raw points, not average points.

Westwood is No. 1 in the world based on his play over two years, which is his reward.

As for Woods? The world ranking is as good of an indicator as any on how his year on the golf course has gone. Woods remains

No. 2, mostly because of his performance in 2009 — seven wins, still more than anyone over the past two years. Points gradually fall off each week, however, and Woods has lost more points (381.294) than any player has earned.

If the world ranking were based only on one year, Woods would be about No. 58.

And depending on how quickly he can turn his game around, he will continue to fall. It’s possible for Woods to fall as low as No. 4 by the end of the year. If he were to not earn any points, he would fall out of the top 10 around the Masters, and out of the top 20 by the U.S. Open. That’s unlikely, but it still shows that he is vulnerable to big drops next year.

Woods has said he is not driven by losing his No. 1 ranking — winning takes care of that, and he hasn’t done that in more than a year. He also said he is not motivated by chatter that he’ll never win another major or dominate like he once did.

“That’s not why I play the game,” he said. “My dad has always been adamant, all throughout my childhood, ‘Only play the game of golf and go after what you want to go after, don’t let anyone else influence you, play from your heart and soul.’ That hasn’t changed. My goal is to win every tournament I tee it up in and be prepared for every event.” □



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TOTALLY FAKE BASEBALL CARDS BY DEREK JETER YOU WON'T SEE IN 2011 ... AND ONE YOU JUST MIGHT



What are your cards worth? Click the link above to see Beckett's cards and find out ... or pick up one of our reporters at your local baseball or card shop.



Are you getting to read about your favorite sports stars & personalities? Check out Beckett's regularly occurring feature found on ESPN's Page 2. (2011 update the story for Year 2 of the link above ready to go!)



BOSTON'S BEST
JETER: "YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!"

By Chris Oatis | Editor | Commentary

The biggest drama in the baseball world these days is later made for the major media outlets to chase or as it unfolds around the most successful franchise in all of American sports, the 27-time champion New York Yankees, and its most heralded modern-day player and career hit leader, Derek Jeter.

In this frame grab of The Beckett Blog by Beckett Media, on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, baseball player Derek Jeter is featured in the jerseys of all 30 major league teams, on a blog page titled "TOTALLY FAKE BASEBALL CARDS." With the New York Yankees captain and his team still apart in contract negotiations, Beckett Media, which prices baseball cards, playfully envisioned him with the Red Sox, Pirates, Royals and Cardinals, among others.

JETER Continued from Page B1

He'll earn his money by selling a new Yankee legend and making fans feel all warm and fuzzy when they reach deep into their wallets to

Associated Press
watch him play out the string. For that he reportedly wants to be rewarded with four or five more years on the payroll. Jeter would like another \$100 million or so, boosting his career earnings from the

only team he has ever played for somewhere north of \$300 million.

Crazy money, sure, though not nearly as crazy as the money the Yankees are on the hook for over the next seven years for the 34-year-old who plays next to Jeter on the infield. The numbers suggest a supposedly steroid-free Alex Rodriguez is already in decline, yet the biggest portion of his 10-year \$275 million contract has yet to be paid.

The Yankees don't want to repeat their mistake with Jeter. The problem is, they really don't have much choice. The Boss would have realized that. His son apparently doesn't.

"As much as we want to keep everybody, we've already made these guys very, very rich, and I don't feel we owe anybody anything monetarily," Hank Steinbrenner said last week. "Some of these players are wealthier than their bosses."

Chalk that up as public posturing, if you will. But a baseball executive familiar with the negotiations told the AP's Ronald Blum on Monday that Jeter and the Yankees haven't talked in more than a week and that Jeter's side hasn't made a formal counter proposal to the club's initial \$45 million, three-year offer to the future Hall of Fame shortstop.

Then again, there's no real need to hurry. Jeter isn't going anywhere else.

No other team is going to pay him superstar money in the twilight of his career. The Yankees don't have to get into a bidding contest for his remaining talents.

But they do have to sign him. And they will have to give him more than three years.

Assuming things don't get too acrimonious between employee and employer, it will be money well spent. Jeter is the face of the Yankees this generation, just as Reggie Jackson was before him and Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra were before that.

He's played shortstop for five World Series winning teams in two different stadiums in the Bronx, come to bat 10,548 times as a Yankee, and lived his life in a fishbowl without a whiff of any kind of scandal. In an era where players — A-Rod included — routinely bulked up on steroids to cheat the game there's never been a hint that Jeter used anything other than talent and hard work to play shortstop at a consistently high level over 15 full seasons.

Jeter will break into the exclusive 3,000 hit club sometime next year, and will likely one day end his career in the top five in hits of all time. He's done it all in

one uniform under the most demanding expectations from both fans and a larger-than-life late owner.

Jeter is such a Yankee that he stood in front of home plate after the final game at the old stadium to lead the crowd in farewell to the stadium that Ruth built, then led his teammates on a slow lap around the field. Every time he comes to plate at the new stadium he is introduced at his insistence by a recording of the late public address announcer Bob Sheppard. He's a link to Yankees of the past, a bridge to the Yankees of the future. His popularity is one of the reasons the Yankees were able to build a new stadium, and one of the reasons they have a television network that makes them huge profits.

Former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent suggested in an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal on Monday that players seeking huge contracts might be better off negotiating for a piece of the team instead. Indeed, the idea of Jeter owning a small percentage of the Yankees would likely be appealing to both the shortstop and New York fans, if not the Steinbrenners themselves.

In the absence of that, give him money and give him years. And start polishing the plaque for the day that will surely come. □

EU launches antitrust probe into Google

By **GABRIELE STEINHAUSER,**
AP Business Writer

BRUSSELS — European Union regulators will probe whether Google Inc. has been manipulating its search results to stifle competition, funnel more traffic to its own services and protect its global stranglehold of the online search market.

The European Commission's move, announced Tuesday, is the first formal investigation by a major regulatory agency into these issues and could potentially result in billions in fines, as in the recent cases of Microsoft Corp. and Intel Corp.

Several competitors, one owned by Microsoft, say that links to their services appear too low on Google's general search results. They also claim that when Google offers similar services, such as online price comparison, it puts its own links higher on the sponsored search results, the ones companies have to pay for.

In addition, the Commission will look into whether Google prevented advertising partners from posting ads from Google's competitors on

their sites and whether it was making it more difficult for customers to move data from their advertising campaigns to other ad platforms.

The issue could boil down to whether Google has a right to program its search engine the way it wants or whether it is abusing the market power it has accumulated by processing about two out of three search requests made worldwide.

This much is clear: Google's own services consistently have ranked at or near the top of its search results. In some cases, there's clear logic to the rankings because some of Google's properties, including its mapping service and YouTube video site, are considered to be among the best and most authoritative in their categories.

But other Google services, such as finance and health, that aren't as widely used or as well regarded also tend to get high rankings in the search results.

Google has steadfastly insisted that it avoids bias in its search results by using a closely guarded formula for determining rankings. But at other times, Google executives have conceded

they sometimes give their own services preferential treatment, and have argued if users aren't happy with the results, they can easily migrate to another search engine such as Bing.

The three companies that lodged complaints in February are U.K.-based price comparison site Foundem, French legal search engine ejjustice.fr and shopping site Ciao, owned by Microsoft through its own search engine Bing — which has struggled to wrestle online market share away from Google.

The investigation does not imply any wrongdoing by Google, which controls about 90 percent of the online search market in Europe, but shows that the antitrust watchdog is taking the complaints seriously enough to launch a detailed examination of the company's practices.

Several websites in the U.S. have also complained that their links have been unfairly buried in Google's search results and, in some instances, have even filed lawsuits in the United States. The company has also been the target of national antitrust probes in Germany, Italy and France.

Web delivery firm says Comcast taking toll on data

By **JOELLE TESSLER,**
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — Level 3 Communications Inc., an Internet backbone company that supports Netflix Inc.'s increasingly popular movie streaming service, complained Monday that cable giant Comcast Corp. is charging it an unfair fee for the right to send data to its subscribers. Comcast replied it is being swamped by a flood of data and needs to be paid. Level 3 said it agreed to pay under protest, but that the fee violates the principles of an "open Internet." It also goes against the Federal Communications Commission's proposed rules preventing broadband Internet providers from favoring certain types of traffic, it said. "Comcast is effectively putting up a toll booth at the borders of its broadband Internet access network, enabling it to unilaterally decide how much to charge for content," said Level 3's chief legal officer, Thomas Stortz, in a statement. Comcast called Level 3's position "duplicious" and said a previous deal for the companies to handle traffic for each other had become unbalanced in Level 3's favor.

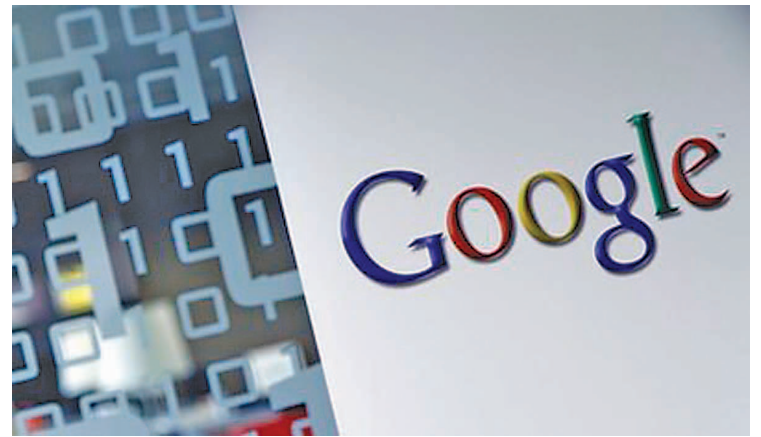
The spat reflects the complicated commercial relationships of the Internet, where it's not always clear who should be paying whom.

Level 3's main business is carrying Internet traffic across the country, charging Internet service providers like Comcast fees to connect to Web sites and other ISPs.

However, it is moving into the business of distributing Internet content such as movies for companies including Netflix. Under that business model, it is acting like a content-delivery network, which usually pays ISPs for fast access to their networks.

Level 3, which is based in Broomfield, Colo., is now pushing to Comcast five times the traffic that goes the other way. "When one provider exploits this type of relationship by pushing the burden of massive traffic growth onto the other provider and its customers, we believe this is not fair," Comcast's senior vice president Joe Waz said in a statement. The dispute comes at a sensitive time for Comcast Corp., which is trying to get regulatory clearance to buy majority control of NBC Universal from General Electric Co. for cash and assets worth \$13.75 billion.

The government is examining the deal, especially around concerns that the nation's largest cable TV provider could wield undue power in the distribution of online video once it takes control. □



FILE - In this Tuesday, March 23, 2010 file photo, the Google logo is seen at the Google headquarters in Brussels. On Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010 the European Commission said it is launching a formal investigation into whether Google has abused its dominant market position in online searches. The EU's competition watchdog says Tuesday that the probe follows complaints from other online search providers that Google put them at a disadvantage in both its paid and unpaid search results.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, File)

The Commission has notified the U.S. Department of Justice of its investigation, which is likely to take "at least a few months," said Amelia Torres, the spokeswoman for Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia. It is too early to say whether Google might have to disclose its closely guarded search algorithm to regulators, Torres said. Speaking to the European Parliament, Almunia said it was "far too early to say" whether there was definitely a problem with Google's conduct. "But we will investigate in-depth potential concerns as regards Google's conduct, notably on the way in which search results are set out," Almunia said. "Vigorous competition of all players, including smaller and innovative ones must be preserved for the future."

In a Tuesday statement, Google reiterated its belief that it hasn't done anything wrong.

"Since we started Google we have worked hard to do the right thing by our users and our industry — ensuring that ads are always clearly marked, making it easy for users and advertisers to take their data with them when they switch services, and investing heavily in open source projects," Google said in an emailed statement.

"But there's always going to be room for improvement, and so we'll be working with the Commission to address any

concerns," the company said. Google also said that "there were compelling reasons" why the complaining companies "were ranked poorly." It said Foundem "duplicates 79 percent of its website content from other sites, and we have consistently informed webmasters that our algorithms disadvantage duplicate sites."

ICOMP, a business group whose members include Foundem and which is sponsored by Microsoft, said it welcomed the Commission's investigation. "This is not just about search results," said ICOMP's legal council David Wood. "This is about the whole ecosystem of doing business with online content, online advertising companies and software companies."

There are no time limits for antitrust investigations. If the Commission finds that Google has indeed abused its dominant position it will send the company a formal statement of objections and could eventually levy a fine of up to 10 percent of revenue. For Google that would amount to \$2.4 billion based on 2009 earnings figures.

Europe's antitrust regulator is not shy in confronting U.S. corporate giants — it already slapped about \$2 billion in fines on Microsoft Corp. and euro1.06 billion (\$1.4 billion) on Intel Corp. Earlier this year it launched an antitrust probe into IBM Corp.'s mainframe business. □

'Runway' designer does T-shirts for World AIDS Day



This product image courtesy of Piperlime shows a limited edition T-shirt designed by Mondo Guerra to benefit amFAR. Mondo designed two limited-edition T-shirts to launch Wednesday, to coincide with World AIDS Day. For each shirt sold, \$20 will be donated to amFAR, an organization that focuses on AIDS research.

(AP Photo/Piperlime)

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL,
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK – There's a reason Mondo Guerra shared his story about being HIV positive on the reality show "Project Runway." It's just at the time, he wasn't quite sure what it was.

In hindsight, though, Guerra thinks he was compelled to it because "now I have the ability to bring attention to a cause," he says.

"Things happen for a reason," he adds. "Now that this is my life now, it has brought some opportunities. I think it's inspired a lot of other people to be courageous and step forward."

He also can raise money for AIDS research in a new partnership with online retailer Piperlime. Mondo, a "Runway" fan favorite this season, designed two limited-edition T-shirts to launch Wednesday, to coincide with World AIDS Day.

For each shirt sold, \$20 will be donated to amFAR, an organization that focuses on AIDS research.

One shirt shows a tree with a single heart hanging from a branch and the other features a colorful skull in the Day of the Dead theme that dominated Guerra's final collection on the TV show.

The Mexican tradition of Day of the Dead isn't about death at all, he says, it's about celebrating the memory of loved ones. "I think it's a smart choice to use this for this cause." The T-shirts are for women, though Guerra notes, "They actually printed a male version in extra small just for me." □



Mugs commemorating the forthcoming marriage of Britain's Prince William to Kate Middleton, are stacked at the Prince William Pottery Company in Liverpool, England, Wednesday Nov. 23, 2010. Prince William and Kate Middleton will marry April 29 in Westminster Abbey, the historic London church where Princess Diana's funeral was held. Royal officials said Tuesday that the couple chose the venue for its beauty, intimacy and historic royal connections, and the date because they wanted a spring wedding.

(AP Photo/Tim Hales)

Vendors rejoice at British royal wedding

By SYLVIA HUI,
Associated Press

LONDON – A William and Catherine monogram mug? A pair of hand-crafted swan paperweights? A dainty wedding bell, perhaps? With the array of romantic memorabilia flooding the market, royal fans worldwide don't have to wait till next year to celebrate Prince William's wedding.

Almost as soon as the prince announced his engagement to long-term girlfriend Kate Middleton, souvenir shops and chinaware producers have been inundated with order requests for special edition mugs, plates and assorted collectibles.

In a generally bleak retail landscape, British businesses have high hopes the royal wedding can bring in some badly needed cash.

"We've taken masses of pre-sales orders, and people have actually placed orders on items that they can't even see pictures of because they're not available yet," said Stephen Church, whose family has been selling collectibles in England's Northampton for over 100 years.

Manufacturers have had special tableware designed months ago — it only took the official announcement of when (April 29) and where (Westminster Abbey) for the race to cash in to begin in earnest.

It's a retail fever that has gripped people from all corners of the world. There is strong interest from collectors in the U.S. and other countries with no royals, Church said. As for Britons — especially those living overseas — owning royal memorabilia could be a way to connect with their country and display patriotism.

"For the British, it's a feeling of security," he said. "It's part of life's routine that the royal family is there. Buying commemorative products is part of cherishing them."

Royal births, coronations and weddings have been marked with souvenir ceramics for centuries, and the commemorative china industry is nearly as steeped in tradition as the royal family itself. So skip novelty items like cell phone covers and mouse pads — serious

collectors will be sticking to mugs and plates, Church said.

"People aren't looking for something different," he said. "With a royal event, it's all about tradition."

So what's on offer?

To share royal adulation with the love of your life, consider getting a specially commissioned royal "loving cup" — a mug with two handles. Aynsley China, which has been making chinaware to mark royal events since Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, has one of these gems. They also have royal engagement-themed plates and coasters featuring portraits of William and Middleton. The designs have been ready for six months and will hit the shops just before Christmas, sales director John Wallis said.

Royal Doulton, another chinemaker, has a similar floral-edged plate that has a picture of the youthful couple gazing lovingly at each other. Church predicts particularly strong demand for memorabilia from Halcyon Days, a prominent china company known for the hand-painted enamel boxes it makes to celebrate big royal occasions.

For memorabilia with a twist, Royal Crown Derby has a set of white and gold swan paperweights, called William and Catherine, with necks curved to represent a heart. Cygnet paperweights can come soon, too — the company is already lining up designs for the next range, in anticipation of royal babies.

"It won't be long before we start (product) modeling for children," sales director Simon Willis said.

Suitably for such a fairytale wedding, the company is also making a royal Welsh dragon — the mythical symbol of Wales, where William is based. The designers have been creative with the product line: there are also W&C monogram heart-shaped trays, wedding bells, a set of dwarfs wearing commemorative hats, and a paperweight featuring a hand-painted peacock and roses that will cost more than 3,000 pounds (\$4,665) each. □



Stocks sink for a third day on worries over Europe

By CHIP CUTTER,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks fell for a third day Tuesday as unease about Europe's debt struggles spread to Portugal, Spain and Italy. A brighter reading on U.S. consumer confidence helped the Dow Jones industrial average pare much of its losses.

The Dow was down 33 points in early afternoon trading after the Conference Board reported an unexpectedly sharp rise in its monthly poll of consumer confidence. The index had been down as many as 110 points earlier.

The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence jumped to a five-month high of 54.1 in November from 49.9 in October. That's better than analysts expected but still well below the level of 90 that indicates a healthy economy. The index hasn't been that high since the recession began in December 2007.

The euro briefly fell below

\$1.30 for the first time since mid-September after investors sold off government bonds from Spain, Portugal and Italy. A bailout of Ireland's banks announced Sunday hasn't been enough to assuage worries that other weak European countries will also need to be rescued.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 33.07, or 0.3 percent, to 11,019.61 in morning trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 7.50, or 0.6 percent, at 1,180.26, while the Nasdaq composite index dropped 21.07, or 0.8 percent, at 2,504.16.

A poor reading on U.S. home prices was also keeping buyers at bay. The Standard & Poor's S&P/Case-Shiller index showed that home prices are falling faster in the nation's largest cities. Eighteen of the 20 cities measured in the survey recorded price declines. In corporate news, shares of Baldor Electric Co. jumped 40.1 percent after the

Fort Smith, Ark.-based maker of industrial motors said it had agreed to be acquired by Zurich-based ABB Ltd. for \$63.50 a share.

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion Ltd. rose 6 percent after a Jefferies analyst upgraded the company's stock and gave high marks to its new mobile software. Google Inc. fell 3.3 percent after European regulators launched an investigation into whether the company abused its dominant position in the online search market. It was the first major probe into Google's business practices.

Barnes & Noble Inc. fell 9.4 percent after reporting earnings that missed analysts' expectations. Seagate Technology Inc. fell 3.6 percent after the disk drive maker said it had called off plans to go private after deciding the price being offered by a group of private equity firms was too low.

The dollar rose 0.5 percent



FILE - In this Nov. 11, 2010 file photo, specialist Glenn Carell, right, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

against an index of six other heavily traded currencies.

Bond prices rose, pushing their yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.77 percent from 2.83 percent Monday. That yield helps set interest rates on a wide variety of business and consumer loans including mortgages. European markets were mixed. Britain's FTSE

recovered from earlier losses and rose 0.2 percent in afternoon trading. Germany's DAX was flat, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.4 percent.

Asian markets fell on growing expectations that China will have to raise interest rates to keep inflation in check. Japan's Nikkei fell 1.9 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.7 percent. □

Congress poised to pass Indian, black farmer deals

By BEN EVANS,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – American Indian landowners and African-American farmers who claim they were subjected to mistreatment and discrimination by the government may soon share \$4.6 billion after years of litigation.

A House vote expected Tuesday afternoon would complete congressional action and send the authorization to President Barack Obama, whose administration brokered settlements on the lawsuits over the past year.

The package would award some \$3.4 billion to American Indians who have battled in court for nearly 15 years over claims they were cheated out of royalties overseen by the Interior Department for resources like oil, gas and timber. Another \$1.2 billion would go to African-Americans who claim they tried to farm in recent decades but were denied loans and other assistance from the Agriculture Department.

The settlements have broad bipartisan support but had stalled on Capitol Hill over costs until the Senate broke a stalemate earlier this month,

approving the legislation without opposition. Similar versions have easily cleared the House, and it is expected to pass again despite criticism from some Republicans.

As debate opened Tuesday afternoon, Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-Va., said the individual settlements may have merit but that lumping them together in a costly bill doesn't serve taxpayers well.

"Inasmuch as people have been discriminated against in the past, we object to that, we abhor it," Foxx said. But she said the bill totals some 270 pages and would cost nearly \$6 billion, including nearly \$1 billion to resolve several additional lawsuits over Indian water rights.

Other Republicans such as Steve King of Iowa and Michele Bachmann of Minnesota have argued the black farmers program is rife with fraud.

Democrats countered that the bill includes safeguards to protect taxpayers while offering fair compensation for people who were mistreated.

"We just can't have this kind of discrimination going on in this country. America needs to pay its debts," said Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo.

In the Indian case, at least 300,000 Native Americans claim they were swindled out of royalties overseen by the Interior Department since 1887. The plaintiffs originally said they were owed \$100 billion, but signaled they were willing to settle for less as the case dragged on.

The case is known as Cobell after its lead plaintiff, Elouise Cobell, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe from Browning, Mont.

For the black farmers, it is the second round of funding from a class-action lawsuit originally settled in 1999 over allegations of widespread discrimination by local USDA offices.

The government already has paid out more than \$1 billion to about 16,000 farmers, with most getting payments of about \$50,000. The new money is intended for people who were denied earlier payments because they missed deadlines for filing. Tens of thousands of new claims are expected, and the amount of money each would get depends on how many are successful.

The case is known as Pigford after Timothy Pigford, a black farmer from North Carolina who was an original plaintiff. □

CDC: More Americans getting tested for AIDS virus

NEW YORK — A new government report shows more Americans are getting tested for the AIDS virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta looked at how many people have been tested since guidelines were expanded in 2006 to include routine screening for all teens and adults.

Last year, an estimated 45 percent of Americans ages 18 to 64 reported getting an HIV test at

least once. That's up from 40 percent four years ago and represents an increase of 11 million people.

The CDC estimates that about 1.1 million Americans have HIV. But about 20 percent don't know it.

The report also shows fewer HIV infections are being detected late.

The new information is based on nationwide surveys and state reports. □

Report: A bit more vitamin D is good, not too much



File photo shows vitamins on sale in a pharmacy in San Francisco, California. Vitamin D and calcium have been hailed as a possible antidote for cancer, heart disease and more, but a panel of US and Canadian doctors said Tuesday that the duo's only sure benefit is bone health.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Got milk? You may need a couple cups more than today's food labels say to get enough vitamin D for strong bones. But don't go overboard: Long-awaited new dietary guidelines say there's no proof that megadoses prevent cancer or other ailments — sure to frustrate backers of the so-called sunshine vitamin.

The decision by the prestigious Institute of Medicine, the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences, could put some brakes on the nation's vitamin D craze,

warning that super-high levels could be risky.

"More is not necessarily better," cautioned Dr. Joann Manson of Harvard Medical School, who co-authored the Institute of Medicine's report being released Tuesday.

Most people in the U.S. and Canada — from age 1 to age 70 — need to consume no more than 600 international units of vitamin D a day to maintain health, the report found. People in their 70s and older need as much as 800 IUs. The report set those levels as the "recommended dietary allowance" for vitamin D.

That's a bit higher than the

target of 400 IUs set by today's government-mandated food labels, and higher than 1997 recommendations by the Institute of Medicine that ranged from 200 to 600 IUs, depending on age.

But it's far below the 2,000 IUs a day that some scientists recommend, pointing to studies that suggest people with low levels of vitamin D are at increased risk of certain cancers or heart disease. "This is a stunning disappointment," said Dr. Cedric Garland of the University of California, San Diego, who wasn't part of the institute's study and says the risk of colon cancer in particular could be slashed if people consumed enough vitamin D.

"Have they gone far enough? In my opinion probably not, but it's a step in the right direction," added prominent vitamin D researcher Dr. Michael Holick of Boston University Medical Center, who said the new levels draw needed attention to the vitamin D debate and encourage more food fortification.

Vitamin D and calcium go hand in hand, and you need a lifetime of both to build and maintain strong bones. □



An HIV-positive woman looks on during an AIDS awareness rally in Bangalore, India. Wealthy nations boosted funding for health programs in poor countries more than fourfold between 1990 and 2010, thanks largely to greater awareness of the need to fight HIV/AIDS, a report released Tuesday said.

Senate passes bill to boost food safety

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed legislation Tuesday to make food safer in the wake of deadly E. coli and salmonella outbreaks, potentially giving the government broad new powers to increase inspections of food processing facilities and force companies to recall tainted food.

The \$1.4 billion bill, which would also place stricter standards on imported foods, passed the Senate 73-25. Supporters say passage is critical after widespread outbreaks in peanuts, eggs and produce. Those outbreaks have exposed a lack of resources and authority at the FDA as the embattled agency struggled to contain and trace the contaminated products. The agency rarely inspects many food facilities and farms, visiting some every decade or so and others not at all.

The bill would emphasize prevention so the agency could try to stop outbreaks before they begin. Farmers and food processors would have to tell the Food and Drug Administration how they are working to keep their food safe at different stages of production. Despite wide bipartisan support and backing from many major food companies, the legislation stalled as it came under fire from advocates of buying locally produced food and operators of small farms, who said it would could bankrupt some small businesses. □

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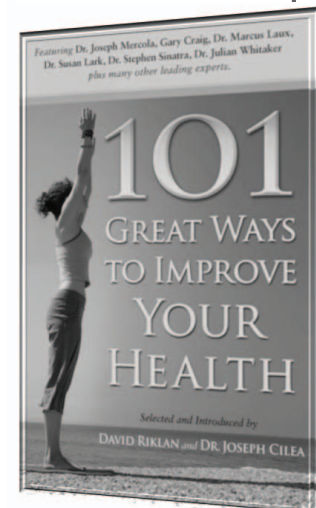


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News of the Weird:

Chuck Shepherd

Surreal Estate: Sixty-two percent of the 12 million people of Mumbai, India, live in slums, but the city is also home to Mukesh Ambani's 27-story private residence (37,000 square feet, 600 employees serving a family of five), reported to cost about \$1 billion. According to an October New York Times dispatch, there are "terraces upon terraces," "four-story hanging gardens," "airborne swimming pools," and a room where "artificial weather" can be created. Ambani and his brother inherited their father's textile-exporting juggernaut but notoriously spend much of their time in intra-family feuding. A local domestic worker told the Times (after noting that both she and Ambani are "human being(s)") that she has difficulty understanding why the Ambanis have so much while she struggles on the equivalent of \$90 a month.

Can't Possibly Be True

Stacey Herald, 36, of Dry Ridge, Ky., is 28 inches tall, with a rare condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which causes brittle bones and underdeveloped organs -- provoking doctors' warnings that childbirth could cause the fetus to crush Stacey's lungs and heart (and produce a baby susceptible for life to broken legs and arms). However, to the delight of husband Wil, 27 (and 69 inches tall), Stacey recently gave birth to baby No. 3 and promised more. The middle child, 2, without OI, is already a foot taller than Stacey, but the other two are afflicted, with the recent one (according to a July ABC News report) 5 inches long at birth, weighing 2 pounds, 10 ounces.

Prolific:

In October, police arrested a man arriving at the Madras, India, airport from Sri Lanka, bringing precious stones into the country in his stomach. After employing laxatives, police recovered 2,080 diamonds.

William Wright, 54, was arrested in St. Petersburg,

Fla., in October and charged with using a hidden camera in a ladies' room to photograph a young girl. Charges are still pending from 2009 when police said Wright had taken "upskirt" photos of more than 2,300 women.

Safari World, the well-known and controversial zoo on the outskirts of Bangkok, has previously stupefied the world (and News of the Weird readers) by training orangutans to play basketball, ride motorbikes and kickbox (while outfitted in martial-arts trunks). In a photo essay in November, London's Daily Mail showcased the park's most recent success -- training elephants to tightrope-walk (where they prance on a reinforced cable for 15 meters and then, displaying astonishing balance, turn around on the wire).

Last Words

Ms. Rajini Narayan's lawyer told the court in Adelaide, Australia, in September that she killed her husband by accident after intending only to torch his penis for alleged infidelities. The lawyer said she might have lost control of the gasoline she was holding when her husband said, "No, you won't (burn me), you fat dumb bitch."

In May, when a fox terrier answered a call of nature in the yard of notoriously lawn-fastidious Charles Clements, 69, in Chicago, Clements confronted the dog's 23-year-old owner. That led to mutual bravado, which continued even after Clements pulled a gun. The dog-walker was killed immediately after shouting (according to witnesses), "Next time you pull out a pistol, why don't you use it."

Inexplicable

Convicted sex offender David Parkhurst, 27, was arrested in October in Palm Bay, Fla., and charged with sexual contact with a 15-year-old girl. According to police, when they asked her about any "physical characteristics" of Parkhurst's body so that they could substantiate her

story, she said only that he had a "Superman-shaped shield" implant on his genitals (which was later verified).

More than 4,450 activities are federal crimes, and 300,000 federal regulations carry potential criminal penalties, according to an October feature by McClatchy Newspapers, and to illustrate its point that Congress has gone overboard in creating "crimes," McClatchy pointed to a Miami seafood importer. Abner Schoenwetter, 64, just finished a six-year stretch in prison for the crime of contracting to purchase lobster tails from a Honduran seller whom federal authorities learned was violating lobster-harvest regulations.

DNA evidence has exonerated 261 convicted criminals (including 17 on death row), but more interesting, according to professor Brandon Garrett of the University of Virginia Law School, more than 40 such exonerations have been of criminals who falsely confessed to "their" crimes. "I beat myself up a lot," Eddie Lowery told The New York Times in September. Lowery had falsely admitted raping a 75-year-old woman and served a 10-year sentence before being cleared. "I thought I was the only dummy who did that." Lowery's (nearly logical) explanation was typical: Weary from high-pressure police interrogation, he gave up and told them what they wanted to hear, figuring to get a lawyer to straighten everything out -- except that, by that time, the police had his confession on video, preserved for the jury.

Unclear on the Concept

Acting on a citizen complaint, officials in Plymouth, England, ruled in October that Army cadets (ages 12 to 18), who practice precision drills with their rifles, could not handle them during the public parade on Britain's Remembrance Day (Veterans Day). Officials said they did not want to be "glamorizing" guns.

In June, the roller coaster at

the Funtown Splashtown in Saco, Maine, unexpectedly came to a halt, stranding riders for all of 15 minutes. A reportedly "furious" Eric and Tiffany Dillingham said later that their 8-year-old daughter was so frightened that she had to be taken to a hospital and had nightmares constantly since then. (Since the purpose of a roller coaster is to induce fright, it was not known whether the girl would also have required a hospital visit if the ride had been working perfectly.)

More Things to Worry About Clownmania:

Performers in New York's traveling Bindlestiff Family Cirkus protested in October against political campaign language referring to Washington, D.C., as a "circus. Said Kinko the Clown, "Before you call anyone in Washington a clown, consider how hard a clown works."

"Tiririca" ("Grumpy"), a professional clown, was elected by resounding vote to the Brazilian Congress from Sao Paulo in October under the slogan "It Can't Get Any Worse." □

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Reserve saves trees but not monarch butterflies



In this photo taken Nov. 5, 2010, pine seedlings grow at a reforestation project in San Juan Xoconusco, Mexico, part of the wintering grounds of the Monarch butterfly in the mountains west of Mexico City. The Monarch butterfly reserve in the mountains west of Mexico City is a link between developed and developing nations, the butterflies migrate to Mexico from the United States and Canada, and its has benefited from international help, like payments to communities to preserve trees and alternative income projects that helped cut the deforestation rate here by about 95 percent.

(AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)

By **MARK STEVENSON**,
Associated Press

ZITACUARO, Mexico – This small patch of mountain fir forest is a model of sorts for the global effort to save trees and fight climate change. The problem is that saving trees has not saved the forest’s most famous visitors: Monarch butterflies.

Millions of Monarch butterflies migrate here from the United States and Canada every year, but their numbers declined by 75 percent last year alone, apparently because of changing weather and vegetation patterns.

The Monarch butterfly reserve shows how complex the battle against climate change has

become, as the world prepares for a United Nations climate conference in Cancun next week. The conference is expected to focus in part on how best to preserve forests, with questions about who should pay and how to treat communities who already live in the jungles and forests of developing countries.

Forest preservation is the goal of a popular U.N.-sponsored program known as REDD, or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, which garnered more mentions than any other program approved at the last international climate meeting in Copenhagen. The hope is for developed nations to pay

poorer ones \$22 to \$38 billion per year to help them preserve forests. “It is not a hypothetical idea or theory,” said Mexico’s Environment Secretary Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada of the REDD program. “It’s working in many countries around the world. What we really require is....that it convert into an agreement at Cancun.”

The Monarch butterfly reserve is an example both of how the program could work, and of its limitations.

The reserve in the mountains west of Mexico City benefits from international help, such as payments to communities to preserve trees and alternative income projects.

The deforestation rate there is down by about 95 percent.

Fernando Solis Martinez, 54, is the head of a “communal property commission” that takes care of jointly-owned land inherited from Indian ancestors in San Juan Xoconusco, a village within the 13,550 hectare (33,482 acre) reserve. He oversees the watering and replanting of oyamel fir seedlings at the village’s tree nursery. The 120,000 seedlings will be distributed throughout the reserve come June, when the rains return, to replace areas cut or washed away in severe storms.

“This nursery is a way to do maintenance on the forest, and provide jobs for more people,” said Solis Martinez, as he takes a break from efforts to rebuild a balky water pump.

Set up three years ago with help from the World Wildlife Fund, the nursery is part of a mix of projects — direct payments from the government and contributions from private companies; a scheme for collecting sap and selling it to turpentine manufacturers; sales of woven pine-needle artisanry, and hopes for a tourist operation — that could provide income streams for future generations.

It is not paradise; most residents of Xoconusco still have to work for about 120 pesos (\$10) per day) at flower hothouses down in the valley, and illicit loggers are a constant threat. Most communities send patrols of 10 men into the mountains every day to listen for the distant sounds of chain saws. But despite the challenges, the program appears to be working. Gabriel Colin Camacho, 37, the new head of communal lands in the village of Crescencio Morales, has started to turn around that community’s reputation as one of the worst areas for deforestation in the reserve. Now he says most of his neighbors realize that a steady stream of government payments would end if the forest disappears.

“Before, we saw the forest as nothing more than money, that we could take without any considerations,” he said. “You could say that we were fools, because we sold the wood for less than it was worth.”

Deforestation and soil

degradation causes between 17 and 20 percent of greenhouse gases worldwide, a greater proportion than transport. But the idea of saving forests to trap greenhouse gases has come a long way since the days when simply planting a stretch of eucalyptus trees on a clear-cut plain would qualify as “offsets,” the practice of balancing greenhouse-gas emissions in one place by “trapping” carbon in trees.

The world is still losing 12.8 million acres (5.2 million hectares) of forest per year, despite reforestation efforts that reduced the annual rate of loss from 20.3 million acres (8.3 million hectares) in the 1990s. So far, an alliance of about a dozen developed nations is providing about \$4.6 billion in funding for projects in about 60 developing nations.

But when you’re talking that amount of money, you want some accounting and control, tree by saved tree. And of course you have to raise the money: high-emission companies looking for offsets offer a potentially rich source of funds. The idea angers many activists.

“We do not accept, and the people of the world will not accept, using forests as a sort of reserve so that big corporations can keep on polluting,” said Raul Benet, an activist who is organizing protests at Cancun.

While the Monarch Butterfly Reserve is a success story, trees alone won’t keep it going.

If the butterflies disappear — and by all accounts they are doing badly — interest in the forest could quickly evaporate. The REDD program has been improved to take into account the importance of biodiversity in forests.

While experts aren’t really sure what has been battering the butterflies, changing weather patterns are clearly taking a toll.

Last year, clusters of butterflies covered a total area equal to only about 1.9 hectares (4.7 acres), compared to about 8 hectares (almost 20 acres) in the 2008-2009 winter season. □

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Según observadores internacionales

Irregularidades no invalidan elección en Haití

PUERTO PRINCIPE (Reuters) - Observadores internacionales dieron el lunes una aprobación cautelosa a las disputadas elecciones en Haití, diciendo que podrían considerarse válidas pese a "irregularidades" que generaron protestas populares y acusaciones de fraude.

Los problemas detectados incluyen manipulación de votantes, actos de violencia e intimidación, una "atmósfera tóxica" creada por acusaciones de fraude y casos de votantes que no pudieron encontrar donde sufragar, dijo la misión conjunta de observadores de la Organización de Estados Americanos y la Comunidad Caribeña.

"La misión conjunta no cree que esas irregularidades,



Soldados de la ONU organizan material electoral para su recuento en Puerto Príncipe. Nov 29, 2010. REUTERS/Eduardo Muñoz

algunas de ellas graves, necesariamente invaliden el proceso", dijo el embajador

Colin Granderson, jefe de la misión conjunta, durante una conferencia de prensa en

Puerto Príncipe.

La evaluación del equipo de 118 miembros, que observó

las elecciones del domingo en todo Haití, trajo cierto alivio a una comunidad internacional ansiosa por ver si los comicios arrojan un gobierno legítimo y estable para la empobrecida nación caribeña, que busca recuperarse tras un devastador sismo.

Una declaración de las autoridades electorales locales que indicó que la votación fue un éxito se contrapone con el malestar popular por los problemas para sufragar y una denuncia de "fraude masivo" de 12 de los 18 candidatos a presidente. La cantidad y variedad de candidatos aumenta las probabilidades de que se necesite una segunda vuelta para definir al próximo presidente el 16 de enero. □

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